

CITY OF RYE

NOTICE

There will be a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye on Wednesday, January 23, 2013, at 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. *The Council will convene at 7:00 p.m. and it is expected they will adjourn into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. to discuss real estate matters.*

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call.
3. General Announcements.
4. Draft unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held January 9, 2013 and the Strategic Workshop held January 12, 2013.
5. Mayor's Management Report
 - Update from the Sustainability Committee on a draft Sustainability Plan and a proposed "cool roof" initiative
 - Discussion of Land Use Workshop
 - Legal Update
6. Appointments to Boards and Commissions, by the Mayor with Council approval.
 - A) One appointment to the Board of Architectural Review for a three-year term.
 - B) One appointment to the Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee for a three-year term.
7. Adjustment to City Council Liaison designations by the Mayor.
8. Consideration of Bid for the Police contract for uniforms (Contract #1-13).
Roll Call.
9. Residents may be heard on matters for Council consideration that do not appear on the agenda.
10. Acceptance of Grant Award from Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in the amount of \$3,500 for participation in the "Selective Traffic Enforcement" program.
Roll Call.
11. Acceptance of donation to the Rye Police Department from the Zegarowicz family in the amount of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars.
Roll Call.

12. Miscellaneous communications and reports.
13. Old Business.
14. New Business.
15. Adjournment.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2013.

** City Council meetings are available live on Cablevision Channel 75, Verizon Channel 39, and on the City Website, indexed by Agenda item, at www.ryeny.gov under "RyeTV Live".

* Office Hours of the Mayor by appointment by emailing dfrench@ryeny.gov.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 4

DEPT.: City Clerk

DATE: January 23, 2013

CONTACT: Dawn Nodarse

AGENDA ITEM Draft unapproved minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 9, 2013 and the Strategic Workshop held January 12, 2013, as attached.

FOR THE MEETING OF:

January 23, 2013

RYE CITY CODE,

CHAPTER

SECTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve the draft minutes.

IMPACT: Environmental Fiscal Neighborhood Other:

BACKGROUND:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 9, 2013 and the Strategic Workshop held January 12, 2013, as attached.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES of the
Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of
Rye held in City Hall on January 9, 2013 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

DOUGLAS FRENCH Mayor
LAURA BRETT
RICHARD FILIPPI
PETER JOVANOVIH
CATHERINE F. PARKER
JOSEPH A. SACK
Councilmembers

ABSENT: JULIE KILLIAN, Councilwoman

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor French called the meeting to order and invited the Council to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Mayor French asked the City Clerk to call the roll; a quorum was present to conduct official city business.

3. Resolution to accept a federally funded Safe Routes to School Grant, coordinated by the Rye YMCA, to the City in the amount of \$223,952

City Manager Pickup said that the grant is the result of the collaborative efforts of many groups over the last several years. Gregg Howells and Lisa Urban, representing the YMCA, reported on the four projects included in the grant:

- Pedestrian Activated Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons, which will be installed at existing un-signalized intersections near existing Rye City Schools. (\$79,120.00)
- Theall/Osborn Road Intersection Pedestrian Improvements, which will extend the existing curbs at the intersection to reduce the crossing distance. (\$24,725.00)
- Grace Church Street Intersection Pedestrian Improvements, which will extend the existing curbs on Grace Church Street near Midland Avenue and modify the existing center island in Grace Church Street to provide a pedestrian refuge area. (\$44,782.00)
- Milton School Sidewalk Safety Improvements, which will elevate an existing sidewalk and install a six-inch curb to separate vehicles from the pedestrian area. (\$75,325.00)

Mayor French made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi, to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Rye hereby accepts a federally funded Safe Routes to School Grant, coordinated by the Rye YMCA, in the amount of \$223,952.00.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor French, Councilmembers Brett, Filippi, Jovanovich, Parker and Sack

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Killian

The Resolution was adopted by a 6-0 vote.

4. The State of the City Address by the Mayor

“Good evening to those of you who are here tonight or watching at home. It is an honor to once again, for the fourth year now, to stand before you as Mayor of the City of Rye and present the *State of the City* address. As I represent Rye across Westchester County and New York State, our way of government – volunteers working simply for the benefit of their community continues to be the envy of all others.

“In a book about Rye’s history, former Rye Librarian Marcia Dalphin wrote: “First as a Village and then as a City, Rye has had an efficient government; its Presidents, Mayors, Trustees, Councilmen, (and Committees) have been sincerely devoted to its welfare – men and women with no financial gain, have labored faithfully and long – often at personal sacrifice – to direct their Village into ways of progress, to keep it financially sound, and to make Rye a pleasant place in which to live and bring up children.”

“That is Rye. That is who we are and what we continue to strive to be. And it works. In that spirit, 2012 was the year of accomplishment. The City accomplished a great deal this past year that makes ours a better community, and I want to thank those that serve the City from the paid professionals to the volunteers for their extraordinary efforts, hard work and long hours. And as we look to 2013, we continue to face challenges from the Great Recession and Mother Nature and threats of the unknown, but the hard work and foundation we have put forth in 2012 and the resilience we have shown has positioned the City for great things in 2013 and beyond. The State of the City of Rye is strong.

“The key to our success and our future rests on 5 fundamental principles:

1. A Continued Focus on a Strong Financial Position
2. Capital Investment in the Basics
3. A Renewed Commitment to Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

4. Collaborative Relationships with our Institutions and Gov't Partners
5. Increased Management Oversight and Governance

5. A Continued Focus on a Strong Financial Position

“According to a report from the New York State Comptroller, he states –“For the past 5 years the financial trends in our municipalities and school districts have become of heightened concern.” At a time when grants have dried up, elastic revenues are flat, and assessments have declined, in Rye, we have been the financial stewards by providing property tax relief for our residents, holding the line on expenses and restoring our fund balance.

“For the 4th year in a row, the City has delivered a solid budget that keeps taxes low and continues to deliver the same level of services. The tax rate increase is 2.7%, well under the New York State property tax levy cap. The property tax increase for the last 4 years has totaled only 8.1% -- or an average of just 2% per year. During the period of 1999 to 2009, property taxes rose 6.3% on average per year for 10 years.

“The City’s undesignated fund balance (our savings account) is at \$4.3M or back to a healthy 14% of the annual operating budget, which is good for the City’s financial position and AAA rating.

“The results speak for themselves. But it does not end there. We need cost certainty, and in 2013 we hope to have that with our union contracts that have been expired for years. Fair and affordable labor deals that not only look at salaries, but healthcare is a necessity. The City was pleased to come to agreement with the clerical unit at 0%, 0% and 2% salary increases over the period along with an increase in the cap for healthcare contribution. The City was also pleased to assist the Rye Free Reading Room in their agreement with their union. As we plan ahead, the City has engaged its Citizen’s Finance Committee to look at financial and operational issues for long-term financial sustainability. In our 4-year plan, all things being equal, by 2016 the City could be running at an annual operating deficit of \$2.4M. We will be diligent in exploring all options and will share those with you.

2. Capital Investment in the Basics

“The second key to our success is that we need to continue to focus on capital investment in the basics not only to prevent higher costs in the future, but also to reflect the active nature of our community.

“Last year at the SOC, I stood before you and said the City was crumbling. The City had gone through a period of expansion, building new buildings, but the basic infrastructure, roads, sidewalks and sewers are worn. After nearly 6,000 votes cast, a record for any bond in recent memory, Rye residents

overwhelmingly passed by 3 to 1 the two bond referenda for \$1.86M to address critical infrastructure and safety needs in and around our downtown and schools.

“The Central Avenue bridge – Despite years of regulatory and compliance delays with the New York State Department of Transportation who is funding the project, the perseverance of City leadership paid off and we received final approvals, awarded the project and will complete construction this year.

“1037 Boston Post Road site – The Council reversed the decision to develop a Police Station/Court House facility at the site for \$25M, reviewed zoning options, lease options, and has put the building up for sale. The City will review bids later this month.

“2012 marked the first significant progress toward flood mitigation since the 1940s. The first phase of the city’s flood mitigation plan, the Bowman Avenue Spillway Sluice gate, got final funding, project approvals, and was installed. The sluice gate will regulate upstream water flow to help flood mitigation efforts. The second phase is to retain more water upstream, starting behind Bowman Dam. Fundamental hydrology analysis has been done to identify retention options for future projects and we will continue this year to test and gauge water flows. Through code enforcement and a resolution from the Council to Boards and Commissions, a heightened awareness was implemented to ensure that individuals and businesses make smarter/safer decisions for preparedness downstream. A Rye Flood committee was established to advise the Council and assist the City in the implementation of the City’s flood mitigation plan and to monitor upstream development.

“There were also many pedestrian safety improvements. Forest Avenue is a regular thoroughfare for walkers, bikers and runners. This past summer the City re-striped the road to include lane sharrows to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. The project was funded by the YMCA’s generous grant of \$20,000. In addition, a grant of over \$200,000, thanks to the YMCA for Safe Routes to Schools Initiatives to include sidewalks and crossings in and around our schools. The City worked through Federal and County regulatory issues and installed stop signs to allow for safer crossing at Midland Avenue. The bridge at Old Post Road was widened for safer passage and was funded by Westchester County.

“In 2013, we need to look at adding parking to our downtown for shoppers, merchants, residents and commuters. A decades old problem, and not a simple answer by any means, but it’s time to revisit our options.

“3. A Renewed Commitment to Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Irene, Lee, Sandy and Sandy Hook are just a few events that have tested our City. Our emergency personnel have performed exceedingly well, and it’s imperative that we ensure the best coordination, preparation and communication with our personnel and residents.

“We were pleased to work with the Board of Fire Wardens in making changes to the City Charter that aligned both paid and volunteer resources in conjunction with the City Manager and will allow for better coordination in fire services. In addition, our public notification e-mail and text system – nixle.com that complements the reverse 911 phone calls continues to prove effective and we will look to incorporate social media in our communication efforts. Every Rye resident should sign up for our nixle notification service to stay informed of emergency, public safety, and weather issues. Further, the City has begun coordinating and implementing a citizen preparedness plan that supplements the City’s emergency preparedness plan so that all residents are better informed well prior to an emergency and can take appropriate action as needed.

“4. Collaborative Relationships with our Institutions and Gov’t Partners

The fourth principle is to foster the partnerships that make Rye what it is. Part of why people come here is for the Arts Center, Nature Center, Historical Society, Rye Free Reading Room, YMCA, Rye Town Park, and more. These relationships have been critical to Rye throughout our history. Some of note tonight include:

“A New Direction for Playland – In 1929 the director of Playland announced that he “shall conduct it solely out of consideration for the thousands who come there for wholesome recreation whether or not that runs counter to the complaints of Rye residents.” Two years ago when the County Executive first announced they were looking at reinventing Rye Playland, the City sought to make sure Rye’s voice was heard. We established the Rye Playland Strategic Committee to make recommendations on activities that met not only the needs of Rye, but also those of today’s Westchester families. The result is a proposal with great promise from Sustainable Playland Inc. in which a letter of intent was signed to develop playing fields, restaurants, a field house, ice-skating rink, as well as the preservation of historic amusement rides, Kiddyland and more.

“We support this initiative. I also think the Council needs to drop its tax assessment lawsuit against the County and Rye Town – in essence suing ourselves – and work with these entities on these exciting improvements rather than pay lawyers and have the courts decide. A PILOT or impact fee can easily meet the City’s needs.

“Rye Town Park – Most of the financial and operational controls from the Rye Town Park Commission have been fully implemented and the park had a terrific year in terms of user experience and expected financial results. We have established a capital planning committee to look at opportunities for the park. I have also called for the Commission and our state representatives to increase Rye’s representation on the RTP Commission equal to our contribution.

“Historic preservation – Thanks to our support, the Friends Meeting House and Bird Homestead continued this year to develop and generate a lot of program activity and excitement after years of being dormant. The sound of the meeting house bell being rung this past fall was a wonderful sound that connects

generations. Further, the historic walking tour from the Rye Historical Society was launched.

“The Rye Free Reading Room – Contrary to some parting comments by the Director, the relationship between the City and the Library is very good and reflects the community. We have invested in capital, increased the annual financial contribution, and assisted in their labor negotiations. They have been a terrific community partner – and most recently with post Sandy.

“Sustainability Committee – This committee has been active in developing the City’s environmental sustainability plan to look at our community carbon footprint, recycling improvements and community education. Their efforts reflect the growing interests of a broad cross-section of Rye residents. In addition, the City was the first in Westchester to implement a plastic bag ban ordinance.

5. Increased Management Oversight and Governance

“Governments need to focus on core competencies such as picking up trash and public safety – not running restaurants. The actions at Rye Golf will prove to be the City’s Madoff moment going back years and has caused real doubt in the Enterprise Fund model because although somewhat autonomous entities, ultimately, it is Rye residents that are accountable for Rye Golf and the Boat Basin. We need to change these structures for increased independent management oversight and governance outside of just the membership by incorporating a separate Board of Directors to oversee operations. More to come on this as we conduct our management review of these entities. In addition, the City will be instituting new financial disclosure policies.

“So in 2012, a lot was accomplished with more work to be done, but if we stay on the path of these five key principles, Rye’s future will continue to be bright. Again thank you to our City Manager Scott Pickup, his management team and the City employees. In particular, Eleanor Militana who serves both Scott and I, and does a fabulous job. Thanks to our Corporation Counsel Kristen Wilson who is away tonight and our City Clerk, Dawn Nodarse. Thank you to our many committees, groups, and organizations – the volunteers who spend hours advocating for their organizations, serving government committees and planning for our future.

“A special thanks to my colleagues for your public service to Rye. So, on behalf of the Council, we look forward to 2013, ready to represent you and ready to serve. Thank you.”

5. General Announcements

- The investigation into Rye Golf Club continues. If charges are brought forward, the information will be shared with the public.
- The passing of former County Executive Andrew O’Rourke was noted.

6. Draft unapproved minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held December 19, 2012 and the Special Meeting held December 21, 2012

Councilwoman Parker made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on December 19, 2012, as submitted.

Councilman Filippi made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Parker and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the City Council held on December 21, 2012, as submitted.

7. Mayor's Management Report

- Update on Capital Projects: Sluice Gate and Central Avenue Bridge

Sluice Gate – City Manager Pickup reported that Con Edison has completed their work and the electrician has been finishing all the electrical connections. All the mechanicals are currently functioning and there will be a two week period of testing, after which the actuators will be reprogrammed before final acceptance testing is done. It is hoped that by the end of the month, the Flood Action Committee will have a sense of final project issues so the project can be completed.

Central Avenue Bridge – Utility relocation is ongoing on site. Con Edison work on gas and electric is complete and Cablevision and Verizon are continuing work. The contractors have been on site and are about ready to start clearing work and will be working through the winter. The contract acceptance date for delivery remains August 18th and the contractor is still on time.

F.O.I.L. – City staff is working on a module available through the E-gov vendor for an electronic program for F.O.I.L. (Freedom of Information Law) requests. It is hoped that a program will be implemented before the spring.

8. Appointment of the 2013 Deputy Mayor by the Mayor

Mayor French appointed Councilman Peter Jovanovich as Deputy Mayor for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2013, to serve as Deputy Mayor in the Mayor's absence.

9. Appointment of a Council Member as Trustee of the Police Pension Fund, by the Mayor with Council approval, for a one-year term

Mayor French appointed Councilwoman Catherine Parker as Trustee of the Police Pension Fund for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2013.

10. Designation of the City Council's Audit Committee by the Mayor

Mayor French appointed Councilman Peter Jovanovich and Councilwoman Julie Killian, to the City Council's Audit Committee for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2013.

11. Designation of the City Council Liaisons by the Mayor

Mayor French designated City Council liaisons as follows:

Mayor French – Rye City School Board; Rye Town Park Commission; Audit Committee; Legal Case Management Committee; Rye Cable and Communications Committee

Councilwoman Brett – Flood Advisory Committee; Planning Commission; Landmarks Advisory Committee; Boat Basin Commission

Councilman Filippi – Conservation Commission/Advisory Council; Recreation Commission; Board of Architectural Review; Rye Free Reading Room

Councilman Jovanovich – Audit Committee; Government Policy & Research Committee; Emergency Medical Services

Councilwoman Killian – Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee; Finance Committee; Audit Committee; Environmental Sustainability

Councilwoman Parker – Rye Playland Advisory Committee; Rye Merchants Association; Rye Fire Department; Senior Advocacy Group; Police Pension Fund

Councilman Sack – Rye Town Park Commission; Board of Appeals; Legal Case Management Committee; Rye Golf Club Commission

Councilwoman Brett and Councilman Sack may switch as liaisons for the Rye Town Park Commission and Boat Basin Commission at a later date.

12. Designation of official City newspaper

Mayor French made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi, to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Journal News is hereby designated as the official City newspaper for purposes of publishing legal notices.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor French, Councilmembers Brett, Filippi, Jovanovich, Parker and Sack

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilwoman Killian

The Resolution was adopted by a 6-0 vote.

13. Appointments to Boards and Commissions, by the Mayor with Council approval

Mayor French made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jovanovich, and unanimously carried to approve the following appointments to Boards and Commissions for three-year terms expiring on January 1, 2016:

- A) David Cutner and Anthony Piscionere to the Board of Appeals
- B) No appointments to the Board of Architectural Review were made at this meeting
- C) John L. Alfano to the Board of Ethics
- D) George Zahringer and Rex Gedney to the Landmarks Advisory Committee
- E) Barbara Cummings to the Planning Commission.
- F) Bart DiNardo, Frank Adimari, Lisa Dempsey and Jason Mehler to the Recreation Commission
- G) Steven Fairchild, Mary Ellen Doran and Ken Knowles to the Rye Cable and Communications Committee
- H) Jeanne Golden and Jason Mehler to the Rye Town Park Advisory Committee
- I) Brian Dempsey, Denver Boston, Maureen Gomez, Steve Cadenhead and Steven Secon to the Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee
- J) Frederick Dunn, Michael Guarnieri and Paula Schaefer (who will continue to serve as the Board designated co-Chair) to the Finance Committee
- K) Carolyn Cunningham to the Conservation Commission/Advisory Council
- L) Charles Dorn, Joan Marshall Cresap and Garrick Gelinas to the Rye Playland Advisory Committee.

Mayor French designated the following people to serve as Chairs of Committees:

- A) George Zahringer as Chair of the Landmarks Advisory Committee
- B) Bart DiNardo as Chair of the Recreation Committee
- C) Steven Fairchild as Interim Chair of the Rye Cable and Communications Committee
- D) Jeanne Golden as Chair of the Rye Town Park Advisory Committee
- E) Brian Dempsey as Chair of the Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee
- F) Carolyn Cunningham as Chair of the Conservation Commission/Advisory Council
- G) Joseph Murphy as Chair of the Rye Senior Advocacy Committee.

14. Designation of the amounts of faithful performance bonds:

Councilman Filippi made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Brett, to recommend the following amounts of faithful performance bonds:

A.	City Comptroller	\$ 1,000,000
B.	City Clerk	\$ 500,000
C.	City Marshall	\$ 100,000

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor French, Councilmembers Brett, Filippi, Jovanovich, Parker and Sack

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilwoman Killian

The Resolution was adopted by a 6-0 vote.

15. Acceptance of donation to the Rye Police Department from the Hasday family in the amount of two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) dollars
Roll Call.

Councilman Jovanovich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi, to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Hasday family desires to donate two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) dollars to the Rye Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal 2013 General Fund budget did not anticipate this donation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Rye accepts the aforementioned donation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is authorized to amend the fiscal 2013 General Fund budget as follows:

Increase Deferred Revenues – Police Donations \$250.00

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor French, Councilmembers Brett, Filippi, Jovanovich, Parker and Sack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilwoman Killian

The Resolution was adopted by a 6-0 vote.

16. Residents may be heard on matters for Council consideration that do not appear on the agenda

Former Councilman *Matt Fahey*, 36 Franklin Avenue, spoke on the development of a Citizens' Volunteer Corp that would help people in need during times of emergency. The group (Rye Community Emergency Response Team) asks that the Council petition the State representatives to provide liability protection for volunteers. He outlined the issues discussed by the group including training, networking, communication, establishment of shelters, and issues of confidentiality. They are looking to file as either a 501c(3) or 501c(4) organization; have elected officers and hope to accomplish goals by June.

John Duffy, Chair of the Rye Golf Club Commission, asked if a letter had been drafted to the Club membership by the City updating them on the investigation. Councilwoman Brett offered to work on this with Corporation Counsel Wilson. He also discussed references to the financial operating systems for Enterprise Funds mentioned in the Mayor's State of the City Address and the City's 2010 Audit report letter that addressed deficiencies at the Golf Club.

Chris O'Brien, member of the Rye Golf Club Commission, spoke about the Club losing many members, especially senior members, over the years due to increases in fees. He also referred to the 2010 Audit report.

Mela Wu, representing Shen Yun Promotions, spoke about the Shen Yun Performing Arts program that will be at Lincoln Center in April.

Leon Sculti also spoke about issues regarding the Rye Golf Club including the 2010 Audit report and the procedures for bidding, inventory, catering operations, and professional service contracts. A heated discussion ensued.

17. Authorization to procure legal representation for the City of Rye in the appeal of *Carroll v. City of Rye* in the Appellate Division, Second Department
Roll Call

Mayor French made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Parker, to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the firm of Ansa Annsuciao, LLP is authorized to represent the City of Rye in the appeal of the matter *Carroll v. City of Rye* in the Appellate Division, Second Department, for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:	Mayor French, Councilmembers Brett, Filippi, Jovanovich and Parker
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Councilwoman Killian
ABSTAIN:	Councilman Sack

The Resolution was adopted by a vote of 5 in favor and 1 abstention.

18. Miscellaneous Communications and Reports

Councilwoman Parker discussed the following issues:

- The Boardwalk at Playland from the Ice Casino up to Rye Town Park - City staff should ask the County Parks Department for a report regarding the structure of the Boardwalk and plans for the upcoming season.

- Conditions in Rye Town Park since the maintenance staff has been let go by the Town of Rye and how these issues will be handled going forward
- Salt damage from Hurricane Sandy has had an effect on Pine Trees. A report was requested from the City Tree Foreman regarding the protocol for checking trees and the tree situation as a result of the hurricane.

19. Old Business

Councilman Sack reported that he and Councilwoman Parker have received complaints about the increase of the deer population and asked what can be done to deal with it. Councilwoman Parker reported on some research she is doing regarding a possible culling program that could be done by special permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation, in partnership with the County and the Jay Heritage Center.

20. New Business

Councilman Filippi asked if the “No Left Turn” sign that was down in the Central Business District has been replaced. City Manager Pickup will check into it.

21. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss Councilwoman Parker made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn F. Nodarse
City Clerk

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES of the
Strategic Workshop of the City Council of the City of
Rye held in City Hall on January 12, 2013 at 9:00
A.M.

PRESENT:

DOUGLAS FRENCH Mayor
LAURA BRETT
RICHARD FILIPPI
PETER JOVANOVICH
JULIE KILLIAN
CATHERINE F. PARKER
JOSEPH A. SACK
Councilmembers

ABSENT: None

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor French called the meeting to order and invited the Council to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Mayor French asked the City Manager to call the roll in the absence of the City Clerk; a quorum was present to conduct official city business.

Prior to the meeting beginning, Councilwoman Killian was sworn in by City Court Judge Joseph Latwin.

3. Discussion of Council suggestions and ideas for 2013 implementation

Some of the suggested topics that were discussed included: the 1037 Boston Post Road property; the Police Department Union Contract; Rye Golf Club issues; Rye Town Park and Playland issues; F.O.I.L. procedures; the future of the Boat Basin and Milton Harbor; parking issues; a Conflict of Interest policy; sustainability issues; a four-year financial plan; possible sale of City assets; traffic and pedestrian safety issues; police presence in the schools; reviewing the concept of Enterprise Funds; health care and pension costs; County tax rates; expanding the Board of Ethics; land use issues that affect the various boards; revising the Sign Law; outsourcing and the impact it may have on the delivery of city services; adding a person with HR responsibilities to the City Manager's Office; creation of separate water districts for taxing purposes; flood mitigation issues; creation of historic districts; adopting a Complete Streets

Policy; the lease with the Rye Arts Center; and technology issues. The Mayor will work with the City Manager on specific initiatives.

City Manager Pickup also mentioned the Pavement Management System for city roads; the Citizens Emergency Response Team; a drainage project at the Golf Club; a Nature Center playground project; issues related to the Middle School construction project; and, issues related to the Kirby Lane Sewer Districts.

Mayor French announced that Councilman Sack and Councilwoman Brett would officially be trading liaison positions, with Councilman Sack becoming the liaison to the Boat Basin Commission and Councilwoman Brett becoming a representative to the Rye Town Park Commission

Agenda Item 5 was taken before Agenda Item 4.

4. Review of Pending Legislation for Council action

The list of pending legislative initiatives includes: Historic Property Tax Credit Program; Financial Disclosure form; Implementation of Westchester County Stormwater Management Law; reviewing Chapter 76 “Dogs”; updating Chapter 165 “Signs”; updating the Tree Ordinance; removing window and door regulations from the Board of Architectural Review; changing noticing procedures for projects on public property; proposed zoning change for 120 Old Post Road; adoption of a Complete Streets Policy; prohibition of dwelling units below base flood elevation; and Kirby Lane Sewer Tax Districts.

There was also a discussion about time management and the tenor of public discussions at Council meetings going forward.

5. Review of the 2013 Capital Project Schedule

The list of projects highlighted included: Cedar Place sewer project; Old Milton Road Drain project; Annual Street Resurfacing; Annual Sidewalk Repair; Hewlett Avenue Pump Station; Theodore Fremd Retaining Wall repair; City Hall generator; Peck/Midland Avenue Intersection; Blind Brook Flood Mitigation Study; Locust Avenue Sewer improvements; Central Business District Streetscape Improvements; Boston Post Road Retaining Wall; Sidewalk and Pedestrian improvements around Midland School, the Milton Road Corridor, and Forest Avenue; and the Safe Routes to School Projects.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss Councilwoman Killian made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Parker and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn F. Nodarse
City Clerk
(Minutes written in absentia)



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 5

DEPT.: City Council

DATE: January 23, 2013

CONTACT: Mayor Douglas French

AGENDA ITEM: Mayor's Management Report

FOR THE MEETING OF:

January 23, 2013

RYE CITY CODE,

CHAPTER

SECTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Manager provide a report on requested topics.

IMPACT: Environmental Fiscal Neighborhood Other:

BACKGROUND: The Mayor has requested an update from the City Manager on the following:

- Update from the Sustainability Committee on a draft Sustainability Plan and a proposed "cool roof" initiative
- Discussion of Land Use Workshop
- Legal Update



City of Rye Sustainability Plan

____, 2013





Letter from Mayor French

[Insert Text/Graphics]



Letter from Rye Sustainability Committee

[Insert Text]





Acknowledgements

Completion of the Rye Sustainability Plan was a collaborative effort among many groups within the Rye community. We would like to thank those individuals for their guidance and support through this process.

Rye Sustainability Committee

- Dan Allen
- Mimi Bateman
- Karen Bresolin
- Melissa Brown-Grieco
- Suzanne Clary
- Sara Goddard, Chair
- Gretchen Kaye-Crowley
- Marci Raab
- Annalise Stack
- Birgit Townley

City of Rye

- Laura Brett, City Council
- Richard Filippi, City Council
- Doug French, Mayor
- Peter Jovanovich, City Council
- Julie Killian, City Council
- Catherine Parker, City Council
- Joseph Sack, City Council
- Suzanna Keith, former City Council member
- Eleanor Militana, Assistant to the City Manager
- Loriel De Caro, President, CCAC
- Tracy Stora, Member, CCAC
- **[Pedestrian Safety Committee:]** Steve Cadenhead, Maureen Gomez

Outside Organizations

Civic:

- Friends of Rye Nature Center: Christine Siller, Executive Director
- Friends of Rye Nature Center: Lisa Sandler, President
- Friends of Rye Nature Center: Lauren Donnelly, Education Director
- EAGR: Melissa Brown-Grieco, President
- Rye Garden Club: Kristina Bicher, President
- Rye Garden Club: Sarah Barringer, 2nd Vice President
- Rye Garden Club: Karen Bresolin, former Conservation Chair
- Little Garden Club: Mary Julian
- Rye Town Park: Bill Lawyer

Education:

- Rye Country Day School: Scott Nelson, Headmaster
- Milton Elementary School: Mimi Bateman
- Rye Middle School
- Rye High School

Religious Institutions:

- Rye Presbyterian Church



- Resurrection

Other:

- Rye Chamber of Commerce:
- ICLEI: Eli Yewdall, Program Officer, Membership and Customer Care



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

In 2010, the Rye City Council directed three members of the City’s Conservation Commission Advisory Committee (“CCAC”) to study the feasibility of establishing a municipal sustainability committee. At a September 27, 2010 City Council workshop, the CCAC members presented their findings, stressing the need for a sustainability committee and the importance of creating a Rye Sustainability Plan to incorporate the City’s sustainability goals and initiatives. On October 10, 2010, the City Council passed a resolution forming the Rye Sustainability Committee (“RSC”) with nine volunteer members from the community.

Members of the RSC have worked over the last two years to gather information, study best practices, collect and analyze data, and spearhead various initiatives. They have also worked closely with the Mayor, City Council members and staff to obtain information relevant for inclusion in the Plan. In addition, the RSC has organized events for the public, to educate the community as well as gather feedback.

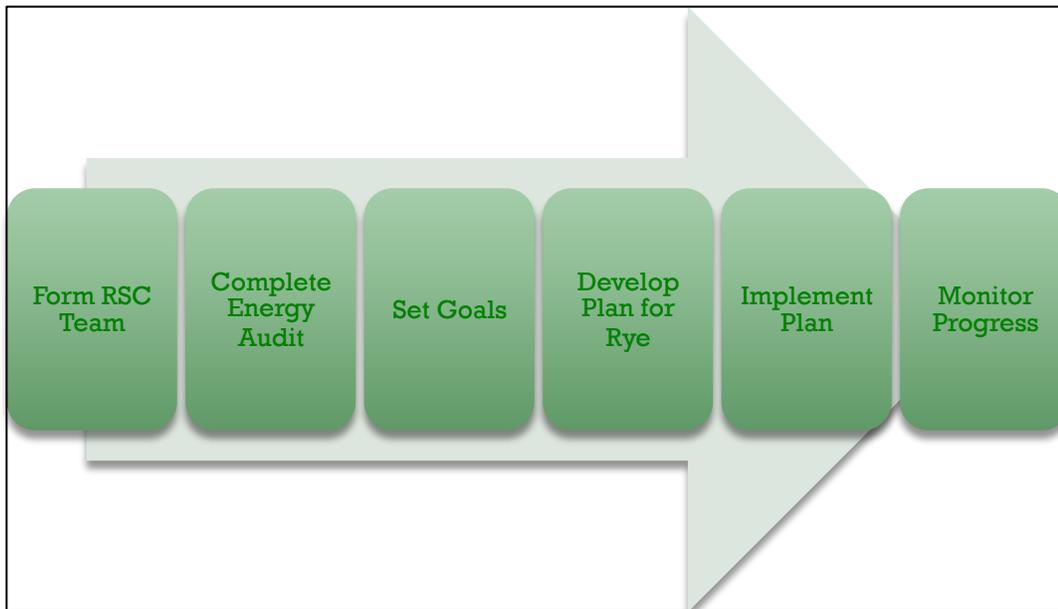
Rye’s Sustainability Plan is the result of a collaborative city-wide effort to define a comprehensive, strategic and flexible framework for sustainability. The Plan will provide a framework for achieving critical sustainability goals while conserving Rye’s existing natural beauty and robust economy. Our city’s unique position as one of Westchester County’s most desirable communities depends on preserving its open spaces and maintaining a beautiful shoreline with abundant natural wildlife without stifling economic growth. Rye’s future economic prosperity relies on conserving and sustaining its current natural resources. The City needs a comprehensive plan so that Rye will remain a sought-after community for future generations. The Rye Sustainability Plan will form the basis for achieving this goal. It will require periodic updates as Rye grows, technology changes and we reassess priorities.

Sustainability Plan Outline

The RSC relied on ICLEI’s Five Milestones for guidance in completing Rye’s Sustainability Plan. (See “ICLEI and the Five Milestones of Sustainability” Section on page [] for

further explanation.) With the completion of this Plan, we have fulfilled the requirements of Milestone Three. **[Insert milestone numbers in chart below]**

ICLEI Five Milestone Process



1. Rye's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (Pages __ - __)

The first task required establishing a baseline assessment of our community. With the guidance of ICLEI experts and using ICLEI's Clean Air and Climate Protection software, we established a baseline measurement of Rye's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by conducting an energy audit of all municipal, commercial and residential operations. This information was critical in helping establish goals, set initiatives and target ways to reduce emissions.

Municipal Emissions Inventory: In the selected year of 2009, Rye's government operations generated 2,777 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e). The City's buildings were the greatest contributors, emitting 50% of the total emissions. The vehicle fleet contributed 34%, streetlights and traffic signals contributed 15%, and wastewater facilities contributed 1% of government emissions.



Community Emissions Inventory: In the selected year of 2009, the City of Rye emitted 213,397 tonnes of CO₂e. Transportation use was the greatest contributor to GHG emissions at 37% of the total, followed closely by the Residential sector at 35%. The Commercial sector contributed 25%, and waste and municipal sectors each contributed 1% of the community's total emissions.

2. Areas of Focus (Pages __ - __)

With the completion of Rye's energy audit, the Rye community is now in a position to set goals and implement a plan for Rye. The Sustainability Plan groups these goals and initiatives into five sectors, each sub-divided into community and municipal sections:

- Energy
- Transportation
- Waste Reduction/Recycling/Green Products
- Water/Land Use
- Community Awareness/Education.

It cannot be stressed enough that these initiatives are intended to be recommendations. Some actions have been completed, some are in progress and some are long-term goals. Over time, these initiatives may need to be revised and refined given budget constraints or changes in the needs of the community. Summaries of each sector follow.

Energy: Reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and promote the adoption of renewable energy sources, where feasible.

Transportation: Pursue and adopt measures that will encourage more pedestrian activity, less dependence on vehicle transportation, and increase the use of energy efficient, clean modes of transport. All these measures will help decrease overall emissions within Rye.

Waste Reduction: Encourage and support recycling and waste reduction by policies targeted at 1) reducing waste; 2) increasing recycling rates; 3) increasing composting and decreasing landfilling; and 4) increasing the use of green products.

Water/Land Use: Conserve Rye's most precious assets – it's natural, open spaces – through enforcement and enhancement of existing laws, by adopting sustainable landscaping practices, and by minimizing environmental pollution. Mitigate flooding and encourage conservation of Rye's waterways and water supply through water saving measures.

Community Awareness/Outreach: Provide open communication between City Hall and Rye residents through adoption of the Rye Sustainability Plan and with the creation of a



dedicated, comprehensive sustainability page on ryeny.gov. Foster and encourage a lifestyle that embraces sustainability principles through educational programs sponsored by the RSC and/or local civic organizations.

3. Implementation and Tracking (Pages __ - __)

Selection and implementation of the numerous initiatives contained in this Plan will be a function of need, budget, timing and preference. The list of possible action items in each sector is lengthy and designed to provide an outline of feasible projects. The Implementation Table in the **Implementation** Section summarizes each potential item and estimates a time frame – short, medium or long term – for each initiative. Ideally, selection of action items will take into consideration the importance of each sector so that there will be an even distribution of projects among the sectors.

To ensure effective implementation, progress will be closely monitored with periodic updates. Progress reports will be released to the public about the status of initiatives included in this Plan. In addition, the RSC recommends periodic updates to the GHG emissions inventory. Comparing future GHG emissions audits with the baseline year will allow us to determine the efficacy of chosen initiatives. Based on the data gathered from these updates, the RSC will solicit feedback from City Council and the community in order to adjust goals, if needed.



CONTENTS

Letter from Mayor French	3
Letter from Rye Sustainability Committee	4
Acknowledgements	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
Background	8
Sustainability Plan Outline	8
1. Rye’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (Pages __ - __)	9
2. Areas of Focus (Pages __ - __)	10
3. Implementation and Tracking (Pages __ - __)	11
INTRODUCTION	15
What is Sustainability?	15
Developing a Sustainability Plan for Rye	15
1. Why Does Rye Need a Sustainability Plan?	15
2. Benefits from a Sustainability Plan	17
Context for Sustainability	17
1. What about New York City and Westchester County?	19
ICLEI and the Five Milestones of Sustainability	19
TIMELINE/HISTORY	21
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY	22
Introduction	22
Methodology	22
Community Inventory Results	24
1. Emissions by Sector	24



2. Community Emissions by Energy Source	24
Municipal Inventory Results	25
1. Municipal GHG Emissions by Sector	26
2. Municipal GHG Emissions by Energy Source	26
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Forecast	28
AREAS OF FOCUS	29
Outline	29
Energy - Summary	30
Energy - Accomplishments	34
Energy – Action Steps	35
Transportation - Summary	38
Transportation - Accomplishments	38
Transportation – Action Steps	40
Waste Reduction & Recycling - Summary	42
Waste Reduction & Recycling – Accomplishments	42
Waste Reduction & Recycling – Action Steps	42
Water/Land Use - Summary	45
Water/Land Use - Accomplishments	45
Water/Land Use – Action Steps	46
Community Awareness/Outreach - Summary	52
Community Awareness/Outreach - Accomplishments	52
Community Awareness/Outreach – Action Steps	53
IMPLEMENTATION AND TRACKING	58
Summary	58
Progress Tables	58

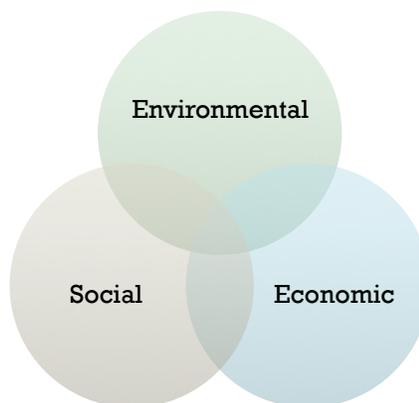


APPENDICES	59
Resources/End Notes	59
Glossary/Acronyms	64
SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT: Trees for our Changing Environment	71
Why Trees Matter	71
1. Flood Mitigation	72
2. Climate Change Reduction	72
3. Air Quality Enhancement	72
4. Energy Conservation	73
5. Wildlife Habitat	73
6. Aesthetic and Real-Estate Value	73
Invasive Trees	74
The Right Tree in the Right Place	75
Pruning Standards	75
1. Why Prune a Tree?	75
2. When Do You Prune a Tree?	76
SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT: Waste Disposal Options for Reduction of Overall Carbon Footprint	77
1. Greasecycling	77
2. Organic Waste Disposal	78

INTRODUCTION

What is Sustainability?

Sustainable development is development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.¹ The sustainability plan outlines a community’s shared goals and policies for sustainable development. It embodies the critical elements of a community’s economic, social and natural characteristics while providing a guideline for enhancing and conserving those qualities. When local governments bring their services, land use, and infrastructure in line with sustainable principles, they can achieve broad benefits for their communities



What is Sustainable Development?

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Developing a Sustainability Plan for Rye

1. Why Does Rye Need a Sustainability Plan?

In 2008, the Westchester County Executive released Westchester’s Action Plan for Climate Change and Sustainable Development. The plan identifies strategies to reduce green house gas emissions. It also outlines prescriptive actions for all sectors to reach emission

¹ UN, Brundtland Commission 1987
Rye Sustainability Plan



reduction goals. Following the County’s lead, a number of communities² within Westchester have already designed their own plans. By adopting and implementing a plan for Rye, Rye will become an integral participant in Westchester County’s conservation efforts.

A recent study³ by Pace University assessed Westchester communities based on their progress in the Westchester Action Plan’s sustainability sectors: greenhouse gas emissions, energy, transportation, water resources and solid waste reduction. Rye lags behind many towns in its sustainability initiatives.

Another study⁴ by Grassroots Environmental Education and Pace University ranked towns based on their efforts to address environmental and sustainability issues. Rye’s ranking was below average, with neighboring towns, such as Port Chester, Larchmont and Mamaroneck, ranking higher.

Rye can and must do better. We need to act now to preserve the health of future generations. By making a commitment to sustainability, Rye will also ensure its economic strength. Indeed, as many countries, regions and communities have learned, sustainable development is the key to economic development. Future prosperity will depend on using less resources and reusing what is already available.

Just as economic prosperity is a critical goal for a community’s continued health, so too are its environmental preservation and social development. These components can coexist without undermining the other, but too often, our social and natural capital is compromised while focusing on economic progress. True prosperity requires maximizing all three.

A sustainability plan will provide a cohesive structure to house all of Rye’s current and planned initiatives. It will be organized, frequently updated and accessible for viewing via the ryeny.gov website. It will follow a format similar to other communities in Westchester. Most important, the Rye Sustainability Plan - created through the collaboration

BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABILITY

▲ QUALITY OF LIFE

Improve quality of life by promoting and enhancing Rye’s natural beauty

▲ COST REDUCTIONS

Reducing costs by implementing energy efficient, waste reduction cost saving measures.

▲ HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS

Improving our health by focusing on air quality, water and land conservation measures. Encouraging walking and biking exercise.

▲ TRAFFIC MITIGATION

Reducing traffic congestion through more walking and biking.

▲ RYE AS A ROLE MODEL

Providing a model for other communities to emulate.

▲ GREEN JOBS

Attracting new “green” businesses, thereby creating jobs and economic vitality.

² Larchmont, Bedford, New Rochelle

³ “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation: Westchester Responds to the Changing Future”

⁴ How Green is My Town, Westchester Rankings



of all parts of the Rye community - will embody our sustainability goals.

2. *Benefits from a Sustainability Plan*

The RSP represents a cohesive and unified plan that reflects the community’s environmental goals.

The people of Rye are already committed to preserving and enhancing their environment. A walking/biking program, leaf blower regulation, a retail shopping bag law, and no-idling enforcement, are just some of the more recent environmental initiatives.

All of these initiatives and laws face the challenge of compliance. Too often legislation is passed but a law’s desired result is not achieved due to inadequate enforcement measures. Ambitious goals can also slide after the initial excitement over a new initiative wanes. Rye’s plan will document all existing and anticipated sustainability goals, initiatives and laws, incorporating them into one official document. It will be a reference for the community’s sustainability objectives and will include documentation of these goals.

Context for Sustainability

The sustainability movement grew out of worldwide concerns about the unintended social, environmental, and economic consequences of rapid population growth, economic growth, and consumption of natural resources.

In response to these concerns, the UN organized a Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. The ideas and concepts developed during this conference served as the starting point of the U.N.’s new environmental agenda. The ground breaking “Brundtland Report”, which was commissioned by the UN and issued in 1987, offered the famous definition of Sustainable Development: “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” This report called for a “Global Action Plan” for “Sustainable Development”.

Following that call, 172 governments came together for an

ICLEI is the only organization that offers a comprehensive approach to help local government achieve its sustainability, climate protection, and clean energy goals



“Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro” in 1992. The result of this mega meeting was “Agenda 21”, a detailed plan for achieving Sustainable Development in the 21st century. Sustainable Development takes into account factors relating to the economy, social equity and also the environment. Following this meeting came the first agreement between nations to mandate country-by-country reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions (“ the Kyoto protocol”). This agreement was ratified by most nations in the world and went into force in 2005. It should be noted that the United States withheld its support.

In 1990, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, ICLEI, was formed. Its members were cities, towns and small government organizations from all over the world looking for expertise and training necessary to implement sustainable development initiatives on a local level. ICLEI USA has hundreds of members ranging from big cities such as New York City, Chicago or Seattle to small local government organizations such as Rye, and our neighbors Mamaroneck and Larchmont.

Many of the key concepts of sustainable development can be found in the U.S. conservation and environmental laws and it is safe to say that these laws have encouraged sustainability in some areas here in the United States. For instance, in 1990 Congress amended the Clean Air Act to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from large coal-fired power plants by 50% over 10 years. The reductions were the result of a cap-and-trade program. However, apart from President Clinton’s Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD), which was established in 1993 and then terminated only six years later, there has been no federal governmental organization responsible for a coordinated sustainable-development policy for the United States. At the present, most efforts in the field of Sustainable Development in this country are driven by local governments, business/industry, and the educational sector. Most often threats of climate change or the deterioration of ecosystems are the motivating force behind these initiatives.

Despite rapid technical innovations in the clean energy field, such as solar, biofuels, batteries and efficiencies, per capita carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S remain

much higher than typically found in other industrialized countries.

1. What about New York City and Westchester County?

In 2007, New York City introduced a comprehensive sustainability plan, “PlaNYC”, that was designed to make the city greener and more livable. The plan garnered praise from all over the country for its broad scope and pragmatic approach. One of its goals was a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (from 2005 levels). In a recent update the city reported that it had already achieved a 13% drop greenhouse gas emissions thanks to initiatives such as stricter energy standards and more eco-friendly vehicles, to name a few.

Westchester County has had a long history of environmental advocacy. Recognizing that climate change will negatively impact the county’s environment and therefore quality of life, Westchester County formed a Global Warming Task Force. This task force drew up the Westchester Action Plan, which calls for greenhouse gas reductions of 20% by 2015 and 80% by 2050 (from its 2005 base year).

ICLEI and the Five Milestones of Sustainability

Since its inception in 1990, ICLEI has grown to include over 1,200 cities in the world, more than 563 of which are in the United States. ICLEI’s mission is to build, serve, and drive a movement of local governments to advance deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and achieve tangible improvements in local sustainability.

ICLEI developed its Five Milestones for Sustainability to guide local governments through the process of developing a sustainability plan. The Five Milestones are defined below and illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Five Milestones for Sustainability, ICLEI- USA





TIMELINE/HISTORY

- 2008** City of Rye joins ICLEI

- 2009** Sustainability task force set up among CCAC members to study feasibility of a Rye Plan

- 2010** June – meetings with area sustainability committees
Sept – City Council Workshop presenting findings and recommending
Oct – Resolution passed by City Council for RSC formation

- 2011** March – RSC Mayor’s Forum on Sustainability
May - Whitby Castle energy efficiency workshop with Green Home Consulting
October – First RSC/RCDS Green Screen, featuring “Bag It”
Dec – Passage of retail shopping bag ordinance

- 2012** March - Completion of GHG Emissions Inventory and presentation of findings to City Council
April – First Rye Sustainability Celebrates Earth Day
April – First Sound Shore Joint no Idling Day
April – RSC receives 2012 EPA Environmental Quality Award
October – Presentation to City Council of completed GHG emissions audit
December – RSC Receives 2012 RNC Environmental Stewardship Award

- 2013** Jan - First draft of Rye Plan presented to City Council
Feb – Second RSC/RCDS Green Screen, featuring “No Impact Man”

[Insert Photos/Graphics]

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

Introduction

In October 2010, the City of Rye approved and established the Rye Sustainability Committee, which committed Rye to taking action on coordinating sustainability issues. Its primary mission is to draft a Sustainability Plan for the City of Rye taking into consideration Rye's unique natural, social and economic characteristics. As a first step to drafting the Plan, the Sustainability Committee analyzed the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by human activity in the City of Rye. With the assistance of ICLEI, the City began its efforts to quantify greenhouse gas emissions. The goal here is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions both through government operations and by inspiring change throughout the community.

Presented here are estimates of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from our community as a whole, as well as those resulting from the City's government operations. Due to availability, community and government operations data is based on the year 2009. This data will provide a baseline against which we will be able to compare future performance, enabling us to demonstrate progress in reducing emissions.

Methodology

ICLEI's Communities for Climate Protection methodology assists local governments to calculate the relative quantities of greenhouse gases produced by energy and waste-related activities in the community. The greenhouse gas inventory involves performing two assessments: a community assessment and a separate government assessment, which is a subset of the community inventory.



The year 2009 was chosen as the baseline year for the City of Rye's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. The GHG Inventory accounts for energy consumed within the City of Rye, excluding Playland, and those buildings in the 10580 zip code, which are on the tax rolls of Rye Sustainability Plan

Harrison, NY. It reflects GHG emissions from the residential, commercial, waste, transportation and municipal sectors.

GHG emissions were calculated by collecting information on energy usage, including electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, gasoline, diesel, kerosene, wood, and vehicle miles traveled within the City of Rye. Emissions related to the incineration of our material solid waste were also calculated. The Clean Air and Climate Protection (CACCP) software developed by ICLEI was used to convert energy use into GHG emissions using coefficients according to the type of fuel used. Emissions are thus reported in terms of carbon dioxide

equivalents or CO₂e. For example, methane traps heat 21 times more effectively than CO₂. Therefore, a ton of methane emissions is quantified as 21 tons of CO₂e. The emissions coefficients and methodology



employed by the CACP software are consistent with international inventory standards established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the US Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting Guidelines.

The CACP software is used by over 500 U.S. cities, towns and counties to reduce their GHG emissions. However, we should stress that while the software is a sophisticated and useful tool, calculating emissions from energy use with precision is very difficult. The model depends upon numerous assumptions and it is limited by the quantity and quality of available data. Therefore, the quantity of emissions generated by the model is an approximation of reality, rather than an exact value.

Community Inventory Results

1. Emissions by Sector

The City of Rye emitted 213,397 tonnes of CO₂e in 2009. The transportation sector was the greatest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions at 37%, followed closely by the residential sector at 34%. The commercial sector contributed 27% of total emissions and the waste and municipal sectors each contributed 1%. **Table 1** below shows the breakdown of emissions by sector. **Figure 2** shows the percentage of emissions by sector.

Figure 2: Community GHG Emissions by Sector (%)

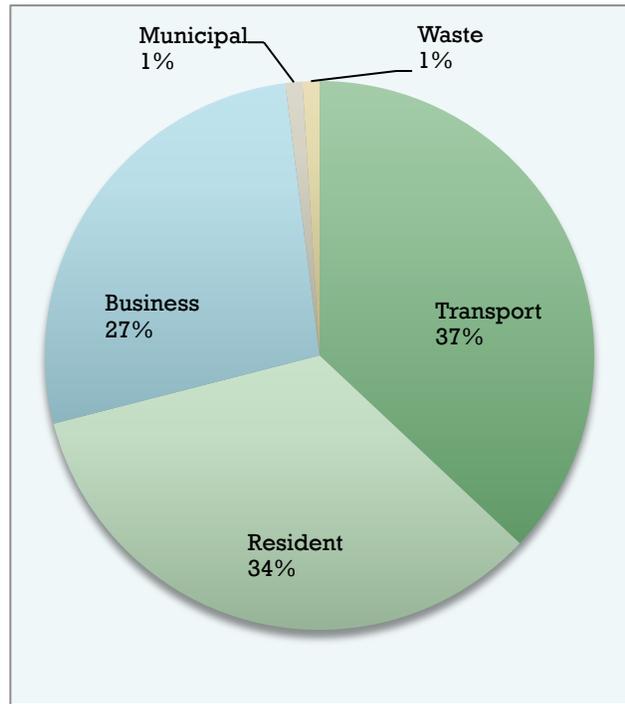


Table 1: 2009 Total Rye GHG Emissions by Sector

SECTOR	GHG EMISSIONS		ENERGY EQUIVALENT	
	Tonnes CO ₂ e	%	MMBTUs	%
TRANSPORTATION	78,041	37%	975,861	35%
RESIDENTIAL	72,315	34%	1,026,361	37%
COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS	58,295	27%	688,642	25%
MUNICIPAL	2,777	1%	33,896	1%
WASTE	1,969	1%	56,255	2%
TOTAL	213,397	100%	2,781,015	100%

2. Community Emissions by Energy Source

Table 2 below shows the breakdown of Rye Sustainability Plan

Figure 3: Community GHG Emissions by Energy Source

community emissions by energy source. Gasoline accounts for the largest emissions source, at 31%, followed by electricity (27%), natural gas (25%), and fuel oil (10%). Diesel, waste, kerosene and wood energy sources represented less than 10% of the total. Figure 3 shows the percentage of emissions by energy source.

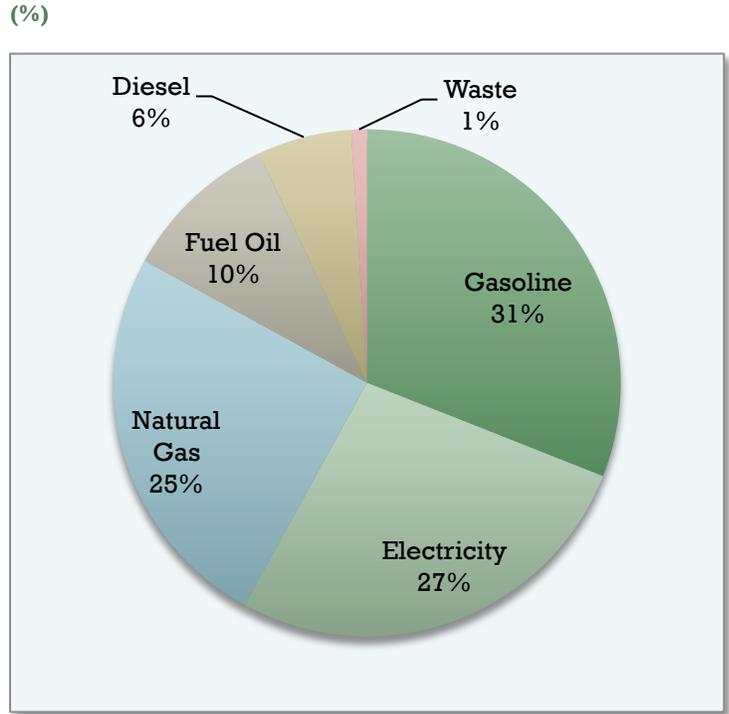


Table 2: 2009 Total Rye GHG Emissions by Energy Source

SOURCE	GHG EMISSIONS		ENERGY EQUIVALENT	
	Tonnes CO ₂ e	%	MMBTUs	%
GASOLINE	65,826	31%	824,575	30%
ELECTRICITY	57,606	27%	556,655	20%
NATURAL GAS	53,763	25%	916,853	33%
FUEL OIL	20,727	10%	255,601	9%
DIESEL	13,143	6%	162,832	6%
WASTE	1,969	1%	56,255	2%
KEROSENE	328	0%	4,091	0%
WOOD	35	0%	4,153	0%
TOTAL	213,397	100%	2,781,015	100%

Municipal Inventory Results

Government operations emissions in Rye constitute about 1.3 % of the City’s total emissions. Local government emissions typically fall between 2 to 5 percent of overall community emissions. As a minor contributor to total emissions, actions to reduce municipal energy use may have a limited impact on Rye’s overall community emissions

levels. However, municipal action has symbolic value and demonstrates leadership that extends beyond the magnitude of emissions actually reduced.

1. Municipal GHG Emissions by Sector

In 2009, the government of the City of Rye emitted 2,777 metric tons of CO₂e. Buildings and facilities contributed the greatest portion of emissions at 50% of the total. The vehicle fleet accounted for the second largest amount at 34%. Streetlights and traffic signals contributed 15% of total emissions, followed by wastewater facilities at 1%. Table 3 below shows the breakdown of municipal emissions by sector. Figure 4 shows the percentage of emissions by sector.

Figure 4: Municipal GHG Emissions by Sector (%)

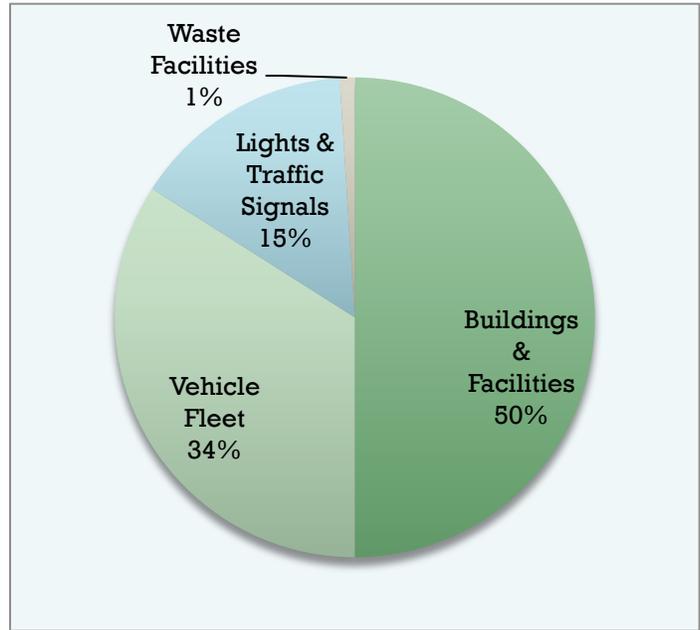


Table 3: 2009 Municipal GHG Emissions by Sector

SECTOR	GHG EMISSIONS		ENERGY EQUIVALENT	
	Tonnes CO ₂ e	%	MMBTUs	%
BUILDINGS & FACILITIES	1,388	50%	17,845	53%
VEHICLE FLEET	926	34%	11,546	34%
STREETLIGHTS & TRAFFIC SIGNALS	423	15%	4,086	12%
WASTEWATER FACILITIES	40	1%	419	1%
TOTAL	2,777	100%	33,896	100%

2. Municipal GHG Emissions by Energy Source

Figure 5: Municipal GHG Emissions by Energy Source (%)

Table 4 below shows the breakdown of municipal emissions by energy source. Electricity accounts for the largest emissions source, at 44%, followed by natural gas (21%), gasoline (17%), and diesel (16%). Fuel oil as an energy source represented less than 10% of the total. Figure 5 shows the percentage of municipal emissions by energy source.

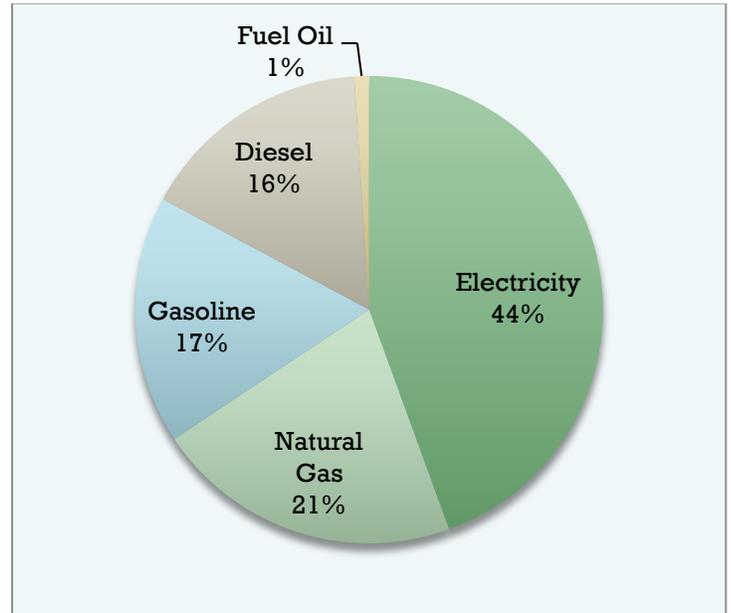


Table 4: 2009 Municipal GHG Emissions by Energy Source

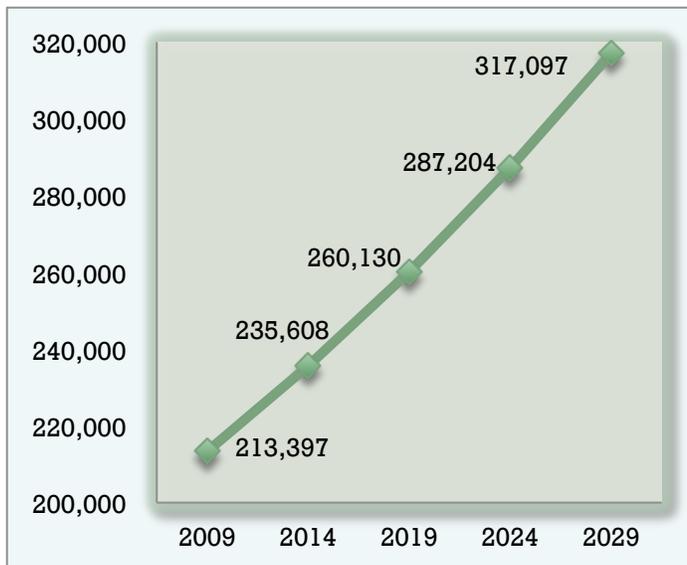
SOURCE	GHG EMISSIONS		ENERGY EQUIVALENT	
	Tonnes CO ₂ e	%	MMBTUs	%
ELECTRICITY	1,229	44%	11,880	35%
NATURAL GAS	594	21%	10,123	30%
GASOLINE	483	17%	6,048	18%
DIESEL	444	16%	5,498	16%
FUEL OIL	27	1%	347	1%
TOTAL	2,777	100%	2,781,015	100%

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Forecast

Based on the community and government operations emissions inventories developed for Rye for the base year 2009, our next step was to forecast future emissions generated in our community. The emissions forecast represents a business-as-usual prediction of how GHG emissions may change in our community over time.

Assuming a 2% annual growth rate, Figure 6 shows the increase in community GHG emissions over 20 years under a business-as-usual forecast.

Figure 6: Forecasted Increase in GHG Emissions (Tonnes CO2e)



The City of Rye’s GHG Emissions Inventory was undertaken to establish a baseline, but also to identify challenges and areas for improvement. We now have data that we can use to prioritize programs, pinpoint opportunities and track progress. Streamlining programs reduces costs, while improving efficiency.

In accordance with ICLEI methodology, we recommend that the City of Rye conduct periodic GHG emissions audits to assess the efficacy of established

reduction measures. The 2009 inventory will provide a baseline for comparing the success of these measures, highlighting those programs that demonstrate a quantifiable reduction, while revealing those that may not be as effective. Tracking progress in this way will allow us, over time, to customize and target specific reduction measures based on quantifiable results.

The **Areas of Focus** section will outline programs – new and existing - in key sectors. The goal is to create a set of initiatives that will improve efficiency by reducing emissions, waste and costs for the community.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Outline

The action plan contained in this section is based on a number of factors, including:

- the results of Rye’s GHG Emissions Inventory;
- the Draft Sustainability Plan Outline prepared by the RSC for City Council;
- an assessment of current community activity;
- guidance from ICLEI’s on-line resources, including their sustainability plan template; and
- a reliance on best practices through the review of numerous municipal sustainability and climate action plans.

There are numerous action items in each category, intended to provide a menu of options. Some are short-term initiatives, requiring minimal effort and cost, while others will require more financial involvement and a longer timeframe for completion. The **Implementation and Tracking** Section contains a table for tracking progress, and outlines the various initiatives, detailing anticipated timeframes.

Each of the following five sectors includes an explanation of the goal to provide background information, a description of current accomplishments, and details of the various initiatives. Although a number of these measures have been completed or are in process, the initiatives contained herein are meant to be fluid. They will be modified as priorities, budget, and preferences change. Periodic updates to Rye’s GHG Emissions Inventory will also have an impact on which action items take precedence over others.

Energy

Reduce community-wide green house gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and promote the adoption of renewable energy sources, where feasible.

Energy - Summary

The debate over “global warming” has been tossed back and forth for decades with warnings and dismissals. This month, however, the stakes appear higher than ever here in the Northeast in the aftermath of hurricane Sandy. In New York City, the clear-spoken Mayor Bloomberg stated simply:

“Our climate is changing. And while the increase in extreme weather we have experienced in New York City and around the world may or may not be the result of it, the risk that it may be — given the devastation it is wreaking — should be enough to compel all elected leaders to take immediate action.”

Between 1906 and 2005, temperatures having risen by 0.74 Celsius according to data collected by the International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC). While such a change appears modest, eleven of the twelve years from 1995 to 2006 ranked among the warmest years since temperature measurements began in 1850. The greatest temperature changes are being recorded in or around the Arctic Circle. The consequences of this rise in temperature may well have massive consequences to sea levels, the atmosphere and our lives.

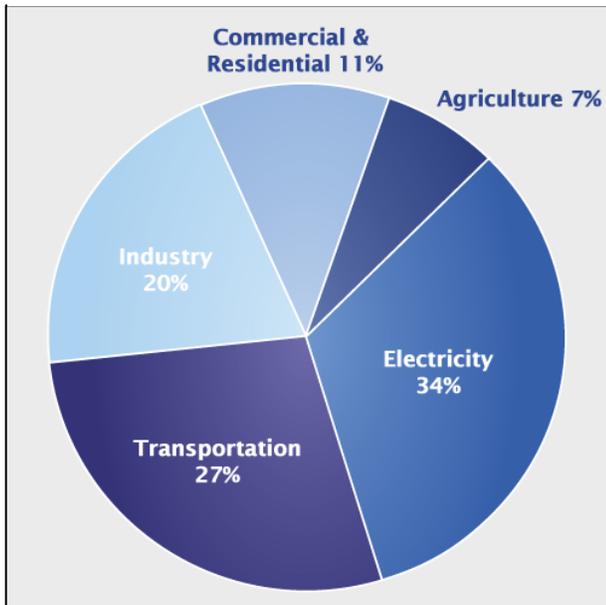
There is ample evidence to suggest that this “global warming” is largely due to human activities.⁵ The increasing consumption of fossil fuels on one hand, and massive global deforestation on the other hand, have led to a rapid increase of greenhouse gases over the last 200 years. For example, according to the EPA (US Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report) in 2010, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions totaled 6,821.8 million metric tons CO₂ eq. This represents a 10.5% increase over 1990 levels.

Global warming has been evidenced by significant reductions in glaciers and polar ice levels and accompanying rising sea levels. It also may be linked to increasingly erratic

⁵ IPCC (2007). *Summary for Policymakers*. In: *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis*. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, M. Tignor and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.

weather that has produced major storms and changing rain patterns, causing record droughts in some areas and floods in others. In 2011, FEMA declared a record 99 weather

Figure 7: Total 2010 US GHG Emissions by Sector



Total 2010 emissions: 6,822 million metric tons of CO₂e

related disasters around the United States; evidence that climate change has become a new reality – costly both economic and public health terms.

⁶Some greenhouse gases in our atmosphere occur naturally and help control the Earth’s temperature. Solar energy arrives in the form of sunlight. While land and water absorb most of this energy, the rest is reflected back into space. As the earth’s surface cools down, it gives up energy in form of infrared radiation. Some of this energy and radiation is absorbed by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which makes the atmosphere warmer. As the atmosphere gets warmer, the Earth’s surface (biosphere) also becomes warmer. The more

GHG concentrations in the atmosphere rise, the more heat is trapped and the warmer the Earth

becomes.

GHG emissions increase significantly when we burn coal and natural gas to produce the electricity needed to cover our daily energy needs in this country. The burning of fossil fuels is the largest single source of GHG emissions. We need energy to operate our factories to turn raw material into goods and we need energy to heat our residential and municipal buildings and light our streets. Energy consumption has increased by ___% over the past [80] years. Changes in the level of economic output and fuel prices are all factors that affect the consumption of fossil fuels.

Two startling examples of countries that have worked hard to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels are Denmark and Germany. In 1973 Denmark was almost entirely dependent on foreign oil sources. Through combination of taxation and incentives, Denmark managed to

⁶ Source of data: Boden, T.A., G. Marland, and R.J. Andres (2010). Global, Regional, and National Fossil-Fuel CO₂ Emissions. CO₂ Information Analysis Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge, Tenn., U.S.A. doi 10.3334/CDIAC/00001_V2010.

become energy independent during the last forty years. Another country that has emerged as a leader in green technology is Germany. Renewable energy such as wind and solar energy now represents about 25% of Germany's total energy production. The country is pushing to develop its renewable energy sector so that it can cover 35% of its total energy needs from renewable sources by 2035 (Reuters).

In order to reverse the recent trend of global warming we need to find ways to reduce the amount of GHG released into the atmosphere. This can be done through developing and relying more on clean energy sources, making homes and businesses more energy efficient and improving industrial practices.

Here in the US, California is taking the role of an environmental trendsetter by introducing an in-state cap-and-trade program. By setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions generated by power and industrial sectors, the state is hoping to reach its goal of reducing GHG emissions in California to 1990 levels by 2020 and to cut them 80% by 2050⁷. Emissions allowances are allotted to polluters, and companies whose emissions exceed their allocations must either obtain extra allowances or buy credits from projects that cut greenhouse gas emissions.

According to an IPCC Special Energy report on renewable energy (SRRN report), close to 80% of the world's energy supply could be met through renewable energy by 2050. Renewable energy includes bio energy, direct solar energy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy and wind energy. This assumes local government support of the development of renewable energy sources through public policy. This in turn could amount to GHG savings equivalent to 220 – 560 Gigatonnes of carbon dioxide (Gt CO₂eq) between 2010 and 2050. All this would be a step towards the goal of holding the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius.

In the United States, we consume 40% of the world's energy by operating residential and commercial buildings. Retrofitting existing buildings is a cost-efficient way to decrease this energy use. David Biello (writer for *Yale Environment 360*) predicts that retrofitting efforts will increase thanks to mounting concerns about GHG emissions and their impact on the global climate. Technical innovations in the solar thermal and geothermal technologies will further contribute to increased energy efficiencies of buildings.

ENERGY STAR: The EPA introduced ENERGY STAR as a voluntary labeling program to identify and promote energy-efficient products, new homes, commercial and industrial buildings, and design projects for commercial buildings. The program provides businesses and organizations with easy-to-use online tools and resources to help establish energy benchmarks in commercial and industrial buildings.

⁷ *Yale Environment 360* [Need article title and date]
Rye Sustainability Plan



Scientists are developing technologies that allow for ways to capture carbon dioxide from power plants and factories and store the carbon dioxide in underground [caverns]. The Energy Star program was developed by the EPA to promote the production and use of energy efficient appliances.



Energy - Accomplishments

- ✓ The City of Rye joined ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, in 2008, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability.
- ✓ The RSC has performed a comprehensive greenhouse gas audit of all municipal, residential and commercial facilities based on 2009 data.
- ✓ Following a successful education campaign by Environmental Advocates of Rye (EAGR), the City Council passed a leaf-blower law in 2008 to help lessen the spread of airborne particles that can aggravate respiratory diseases, and reduce potential emissions such as ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons.
- ✓ In May of 2010, Rye's Resurrection School installed a 24.6 kilowatt solar energy system. The school is the first non-residential institution in the City of Rye to install a solar energy system. Mercury Solar Systems designed and installed the system and helped the school secure a grant from NYSERDA, which financed the majority of the project cost.
- ✓ Jay Heritage installed an energy-efficient geothermal heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system partially financed by federal funds.

Geothermal Energy: Thermal energy contained in the earth; can be used directly to supply heat or can be converted to mechanical or electrical energy.



Energy – Action Steps

1. Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Commit to the reduction of municipal greenhouse gases by 20%. Publicize the City's commitment to GHG reductions to encourage similar commitments from our residential and commercial sectors.

2. Energy Efficiency Retrofits of Municipal Facilities

[Christian M. to confirm whether any have been completed.]

There are numerous retrofits that can be performed, some more costly and time consuming than others. Selection will depend on budget considerations and prioritization of action items.

- 2.1. When upgrading or renovating buildings, consider energy efficient practices, such as the installation of: “low flow” plumbing fixtures; automatic sensors on hand basins; upgraded heating and cooling systems; insulation; and windows with newer, more energy efficient models.
- 2.2. Whenever an incandescent “Exit” sign is replaced, consider replacing with the LED version.
- 2.3. Evaluate and update heating controls, where necessary. Evaluate changes in building operations and housekeeping practices that would conserve energy, such as setting workday thermostats to 68° in winter and 74° in summer (adjusting 8 – 15° when facilities are closed).
- 2.4. Implement an energy tracking and management system for municipal buildings. For example, new, inexpensive sensors can be placed on air ducts, boilers, chillers, computer rooms, lights, thermostats, water pipes, and other critical infrastructure, providing essential data and allowing optimization of energy efficiency.
- 2.5. Where necessary, upgrade wastewater treatment plants to make them more energy efficient.
- 2.6. Develop “cool roofs” on municipal properties, and encourage them on commercial and residential properties. Consider a green roof for future parking garage projects.

- 2.7. Implement and promote a “green purchasing” policy, where, when possible, the City will purchase new equipment and appliances that are Energy Star compliant.
- 2.8. Install computer shut-down (optimization) software on computers.
- 2.9. The City can encourage the retrofit of green building technologies for commercial and residential buildings by sharing its expertise through the publication of information pamphlets/guides.

3. Energy Efficient Upgrades and Retrofits of Lighting

While the upfront costs can be significant, upgrading and retrofitting municipal lighting can reduce costs in the long term by increasing energy efficiency and decreasing the City’s carbon footprint.

- 3.1. When upgrading street, sidewalk and traffic lighting, consider replacing them with energy efficient lighting. [Christian: any upgrades to date?]
- 3.2. Retrofit municipal lighting fixtures and/or replace bulbs with CFLs (or better, as technology advances).
- 3.3. Where necessary, install lighting occupancy sensors in municipal buildings.
- 3.4. Decrease average daily time for street lighting operation.
- 3.5. Institute a “lights out at night when not in use” policy in municipal buildings.
- 3.6. Replace municipal holiday/decorative lighting with energy efficient lighting, such as LEDs.

4. Green Building Practices

Adopting green building practices through new legislation, education programs, and incentives can have a significant impact on the environment while increasing energy efficiency and decreasing long-term costs.

- 4.1. Conduct a study of municipal and county green building codes. Consider the applicability of adopting measures for the City, such as: revising building/energy codes to support green building targets; providing incentives for LEED certified construction/renovation projects; and/or encouraging all new residential dwellings to comply with the current NY ENERGY STAR labeled home requirements.

- 4.2. Consider drafting legislation requiring that every new residence sold or transferred must obtain a Home Energy Rating (HER). A HER is a measurement of a home's energy efficiency and can be used to determine the relative efficiency of a specific residence.
- 4.3. Provide a system of recognition for new construction that exceeds minimum standards for energy conservation.
- 4.4. Make training programs on green building/energy code procedures and financing available to City staff.
- 4.5. Building codes could have exceptions for experimental architectural and energy innovations (beyond current codes and established practices) for architects and engineers seeking to advance building performance.
- 4.6. Institute an accelerated processing service for projects that demonstrate a higher energy efficiency and/or LEED standard than required by the City code.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design): an ecology-oriented building certification program run under the auspices of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED concentrates its efforts on improving performance across five key areas of environmental and human health: energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, materials selection, sustainable site development and water savings.

5. *Renewable Energy*

- 5.1. Investigate the feasibility of installing solar photovoltaics (panels, shingles, siding, glass) on municipal facilities.
- 5.2. Investigate the feasibility of installing solar hot water systems in municipal facilities. Solar thermal collectors installed on building roofs can help reduce the cost of making hot water by approximately 50-75%.
- 5.3. Promote community commitment to renewable energy, green building and energy efficiency through various education programs. Provide information to the community about how to access existing energy efficiency and renewable energy funding.

Transportation

Pursue and adopt measures that will encourage more pedestrian activity, less dependence on vehicle transportation, and increase the use of energy efficient, clean modes of transport. All these measures will help decrease overall emissions within Rye.

Transportation - Summary

A primary obstacle to reaching sustainability is reliance on the automobile and its need for fossil fuels high level of carbon emissions. Unlike most New York City suburbs, however, Rye is not wholly dependent on the automobile and is a walkable city. Many in Rye are pedestrians by choice as Rye's traditional neighborhoods are places where walking is safe, useful and comfortable. All roads in Rye are local except for I-95, which runs along the northern edge of town and connects to the start of I-287. The central business district anchors Rye and provides many of the necessities of every day life. Many workers commute by the Metro North rail and travel to New York City to the south and Connecticut to the north. Commuters walk or drive the short distance to the station. In addition, Rye's public and private schools are within easy walking distance. Abundant public and private recreation options are found throughout the city. The main goal here is to continue to encourage people to get out of their cars and walk.

Transportation - Accomplishments

- ✓ Established the Pedestrian Safety and Biking Master Planning Committee to review and assess Rye's current transportation system.
- ✓ Implemented a bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure plan, which included the introduction of sharrow lanes on Forest Avenue. The project was funded by a \$20,000 national YMCA grant. In addition, the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Commission has incorporated visual improvements at the intersection of Forest and Manursing Way.
- ✓ The City has joined with the YMCA and Safe Routes to School to participate in a series of initiatives to raise awareness of pedestrian safety. These include the installation of Stop signs at strategic locations to allow pedestrian traffic and the widening of the Old Post Road bridge.
- ✓ To promote biking and walking, the City has increased the number of bicycle racks in Rye's main shopping district.



- ✓ The RSC promoted the enforcement of “climate friendly” laws with the first Joint Sound Shore No-Idling Day on April 23, 2012.
- ✓ Midland Elementary School has established a Walking School Bus program to support children walking to school.
- ✓ **[Make this into a box?]** The first Joint Sound Shore No Idling Day on April 23, 2012 among Rye, Larchmont and Mamaroneck helped raise awareness about the harmful environmental effects of unnecessary idling with a number of activities/events:
 - A declaration of Sound Shore No-Idling Day by City Council;
 - Police news release about enforcement of the existing no-idling law and the rationale for the law;
 - Educational activities for the participating schools;
 - Vests purchased for the school traffic guards displaying the message, “no idling”;
 - A new “no idling” sign erected at the Rye Free Reading Room parking lot; and
 - Media coverage of the day and its message.
- ✓ The City uses three hybrid vehicles and five police bicycles for parking enforcement.

Transportation – Action Steps

1. *Municipal*

While the City of Rye has demonstrated a commitment to traffic and pedestrian safety and has recognized the importance of reducing vehicle pollution, additional measures will establish the City as a leader in promoting climate healthy practices. The following suggested action items could help reduce emissions by 1) encouraging less reliance on individual vehicle transportation; 2) shifting to more fuel-efficient vehicles; and 3) switching to fuels that emit less pollution.

- 1.1. Purchase low sulfur biodiesel for use in Rye’s municipal fleet. Using biodiesel reduces pollution, is more energy efficient and can be purchased at a discount. No conversion of Rye’s existing diesel fleet is necessary.
- 1.2. Encourage car-pooling, van-pooling, and mass transit use by municipal employees.
- 1.3. Provide municipal employees with public transport travel passes. Provide cycle facilities (showers, lockers, bike racks) for municipal employees.
- 1.4. When purchasing new municipal vehicles, consider purchasing fuel efficient, smaller, or hybrid vehicles.
- 1.5. Offer incentives to municipal employees for driving fuel-efficient vehicles, such as preferred parking spaces or reduced parking fees at municipal parking lots.
- 1.6. Enforce Westchester County’s anti-idling laws for City owned vehicles (excluding emergency vehicles).

2. *Community-based Initiatives*

The community has instituted a number of initiatives, referenced in the Accomplishments Section above, that are designed to encourage walking and biking. The City, assisted by the RSC, [**Pedestrian Safety Committee, and Safe Routes to School Committee**] could institute any or all of the following community based initiatives designed to increase pedestrian activity and decrease pollution.

- 2.1. Infrastructure improvements targeted at enhancing pedestrian activity.
Improvements could include:
 - 2.1.1. repairing sidewalks;

- 2.1.2. increasing the miles of sidewalks;
 - 2.1.3. constructing [bulb-outs – Christian: proper terminology?] at intersections;
 - 2.1.4. constructing ramps for strollers, wheelchairs; and/or
 - 2.1.5. creating pedestrian-friendly outdoor areas, which include, landscaping and benches.
- 2.2. Infrastructure improvements targeted at enhancing biking activity. Improvements could include:
- 2.2.1. increasing miles of bicycle lanes, paths;
 - 2.2.2. adding bike route signing;
 - 2.2.3. adding more bike racks in central Rye and at the train station; and/or
 - 2.2.4. adding bike lockers at the train station.
- 2.3. Provide electric plug-in stations at the train station.
- 2.4. Offer incentives for driving fuel-efficient vehicles, such as preferred parking spaces or reduced parking fees at municipal parking lots.
- 2.5. Encourage more reliance on walking and biking, by raising parking prices and/or extending the hours of operation in public parking lots.
- 2.6. Step up enforcement of existing no-idling laws, including enforcement of residential vehicles, local transit buses and school buses.
- 2.7. Create an education program, in conjunction with the RSC, Safe Routes to School Committee, and other relevant civic organizations, to encourage more pedestrian activity for school children and their caregivers by promoting the health benefits of walking to school.
- 2.8. Continue partnerships with neighboring communities to advocate for greater enforcement of no-idling laws and promote walk to school programs.

Waste Reduction & Recycling

Encourage and support recycling and waste reduction by policies targeted at 1) reducing waste; 2) increasing recycling rates; 3) increasing composting and decreasing landfilling; and 4) increasing the use of green products.

Waste Reduction & Recycling - Summary

[Insert general summary]

The waste sector contributes a small amount of greenhouse emissions in Rye. Rye's Department of Public works is responsible for waste and recycling removal as well as maintenance of its own vehicles and city infrastructure. Our goal here is twofold. First, to ensure that the Department of Public works exercises best sustainable efforts in maintaining the city, and second, to encourage thoughtful waste disposal, recycling and composting by Rye's citizens, schools and businesses.

Waste Reduction & Recycling – Accomplishments

- ✓ In 2010, the City of Rye was the first municipality in Westchester County to pass a retail shopping bag law, banning all plastic shopping bags distributed at the point of sale.
- ✓ The City of Rye was Westchester County's 2011 top municipal recycler with a 32% curbside recycling rate.
- ✓ The City actively advertises County-wide material collection days for residents' hazardous waste.
- ✓ The DPW has purchased two solar powered public trash compactors ("Big Bellies"), which are in use on Purchase Street.

Waste Reduction & Recycling – Action Steps

1. *Municipal*

As a leader in recycling and waste reduction, the City can set an example for the community by promoting best practices and continuing its waste reduction efforts. Any or all of the following action steps could be implemented to further reduce waste while cutting costs.

- 1.1. Promote Rye’s recycling record, using its reputation to encourage continued recycling programs and to set more aggressive goals/targets.
- 1.2. Increase the number of recycling bins throughout Rye. Consider purchasing more solar powered public trash compactors (“Big Bellies”).
- 1.3. Institute a municipal office waste management system targeted at reducing excess waste of paper, supplies and bottled water, while cutting costs.
- 1.4. Recycle asphalt millings from City paving and roadway projects. **[Christian: is this already being done?]**
- 1.5. Evaluate municipal purchasing policies of cleaning products to identify areas where green products can be used. Use products that release low volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to reduce air pollution.
- 1.6. When undertaking a painting project, use low VOC paint.
- 1.7. Institute an educational program to encourage restaurants and residences to recycle waste grease. The program would demonstrate the financial benefits of this type of recycling and explain how collected grease can be refined into biodiesel fuel.
- 1.8. Consider implementing an awareness campaign about the harmful environmental effects of specified harmful chemicals. Examples could include, aerosols, floor polish, VOC paint, chemical paint strippers, toxic chemical products or pesticides. Identify one hazardous chemical product currently used in municipal facilities, identify the dangers posed by using this product, and make a commitment to reducing or eliminating use of the chemical. Offer environmentally preferable alternatives to the chemical version. Publicize the City’s decision, encouraging Rye residents to follow City Hall’s lead.
- 1.9. Provide information on the ryeny.gov site regarding County/State recycling laws, composting education programs, green products, environmentally preferred local vendors, and other relevant information pertaining to waste reduction.

2. Community-based Initiatives

The following community-based initiatives are targeted at educating the public about the environmental consequences of excessive waste, while highlighting the cost benefits of reducing waste. The RSC would take an active role in initiating a number of the educational campaigns listed below.

- 2.1. In conjunction with the RSC and local civic organizations, organize periodic Zero Waste Days, similar to those organized by neighboring communities, including the Town of North Castle. On the specified day, residents would drop off their unwanted items – household furniture, clothing, e-waste, used bikes, scrap metals - at a designated location for donation or recycling.
- 2.2. In conjunction with the RSC and relevant civic organizations, implement an awareness program to encourage deconstruction of buildings and homes for donation to green deconstruction organizations.
- 2.3. In conjunction with the local schools and civic organizations, such as the Rye Garden Club, Rye Nature Center, and Little Garden Club, establish/continue volunteer programs to pick up litter in public places.
- 2.4. Consider adopting some or all of the recommendations contained in the 2012 Rye City Finance Committee report on the Sanitation Department. Consider a Pay as you Throw Program to encourage recycling, home composting and to reduce costs.
- 2.5. Consider developing an annual community award program for recycling and reduction of waste.
- 2.6. Promote community composting through education and awareness programs. Emphasize the benefits of composting as a method for decreasing waste while reducing waste collection costs.
- 2.7. Expanding on the RSC's reusable bag campaign, initiate an education campaign to encourage the community to reduce its consumption of disposables – bottled water, plastic bags, styrofoam containers - and offer solutions for using more durable products.



Land/Water Use

Conserve Rye’s most precious asset – it’s natural, open spaces – through enforcement and enhancement of existing laws, by adopting sustainable landscaping practices, and by minimizing environmental pollution. Mitigate flooding and encourage conservation of Rye’s waterways and water supply through water saving measures.

Water/Land Use - Summary

[Insert Summary]

Water/Land Use - Accomplishments

- ✓ Rye City’s municipal committee, the Conservation Commission Advisory Council (CCAC), advises City Council on the regulation, use, improvement, and maintenance of conservation facilities and programs. It also advises the City Planning Commission on the impact of proposed construction on any existing wetlands.
- ✓ The City established a Flood Committee to advise City Council and assist the City in the implementation of the City’s flood mitigation plan.
- ✓ The first phase of the City’s flood mitigation plan, the Bowman Avenue Spillway Sluice gate, was installed. The sluice gate will regulate upstream water flow to help flood mitigation efforts.
- ✓ The Rye Golf Club applies green lawn practices for the property by making its own compost tea fertilizer for the golf course.
- ✓ The City hosts a weekly farmers’ market every Sunday from November through May.
- ✓ The Green Team of the Rye Community Synagogue has established a community sponsored agriculture (CSA) program, offering organic produce from a local farm.
- ✓ Local civic organizations help educate the community about land and water use through a variety of programs:
 - The Rye Nature Center has produced an educational video on storm water management.

- The Rye Garden Club’s conservation committee has implemented a number of educational programs for Rye students; provides conservation tips and information with its *Green Space* column in the *Rye Record*; and educates its members on conservation by organizing conservation-related trips/meetings.
- EAGR has promoted green landscaping practices and advocated for an update to the City’s tree ordinance.

Water/Land Use – Action Steps

1. Municipal

Given the devastating flooding caused by an increasing trend in powerful storms in our area, a substantive and comprehensive flood/storm water management program is crucial. The City has taken first steps but more can be done to mitigate future risk. In addition, the City can set an example for the community by undertaking conservation efforts to reduce excessive water use and promote healthy landscaping practices.

- 1.1. Implement a storm water management program. Work with neighboring communities to achieve an integrated plan.
[Christian: has this been done?]
- 1.2. Update the storm water runoff code **[Christian: has this been done?]**
- 1.3. Expand on the City’s use of sustainable landscaping practices by committing to pesticide free or reduced, organic landscaping of public property. Investigate ways to create an integrated pest control management (IPM) plan for all City open spaces which would rely on pesticide-free practices for controlling pests. Promote

SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR GOVERNMENT



Conservation Commission/Advisory Council

The CCAC manages the City’s conservation facilities and programs. It undertakes the following activities:

- Assists in the administration of environmental regulatory activities;
- Provides educational materials related to environmental issues;
- Inventories its natural resources;
- Retains professional consultants, when necessary;
- Provides public services by fostering citizen involvement in local and regional environmental issues.

The CCAC fosters and encourages public participation in recycling, administration of the municipality’s tree ordinance, keeps residents informed about environmental issues and assists the Friends of the Rye Nature Center in fulfilling its mission.



the City's commitment to sustainable grounds maintenance by providing relevant information about the City's green practices on the City's website.

- 1.4. When replacing toilets in municipal buildings, consider installing high efficiency or waterless models, which will result in saving thousands of gallons of water.
- 1.5. To restrict water flow, consider replacing the aerators on faucets, an inexpensive retrofit that conserves water and reduces costs. When replacing faucets in municipal buildings, consider installing water efficient models with sensors.
- 1.6. Conduct a study of land preservation zoning laws in neighboring communities to assess whether Rye's current laws are up to date and designed to preserve Rye's open spaces. Enforce the current zoning laws to discourage excessive paving of non-permeable surfaces and encourage tree planting.
- 1.7. Use grass-mulching mowers (mowers that leave clippings in place) on City property, and review current City landscaping practices to reduce the need for excessive irrigation, pesticides and/or gas powered maintenance equipment. Low maintenance landscaping, including weather-controlled irrigation systems, will reduce labor and material costs while benefiting the environment.
- 1.8. Review the current tree permitting/conservation codes to determine whether they need to be updated.
- 1.9. In conjunction with encouraging tree planting and preservation on private property, launch a campaign for soliciting private donations to a City tree fund.
- 1.10. Plant shade trees in and around parking lots and government buildings to reduce energy required to heat and cool buildings.
- 1.11. Consider the use of green roofs, rain barrels, underground cisterns for City properties to reduce run-off.

2. Community-Based Initiatives

- 2.1. In conjunction with the RSC and local environmental organizations including, garden clubs, EAGR, and the Rye Nature Center, initiate an awareness campaign to educate homeowners about the harmful effects of pesticide/fertilizer use on lawns, while offering natural, safe alternatives.
- 2.2. In conjunction with the RSC and local civic organizations, initiate an education campaign to promote tree planting on private property, emphasizing the benefits of

trees for reducing flooding and carbon emissions, while increasing home property values. Some of the elements of the campaign could include:

- 2.2.1. Conducting a City tree inventory;
 - 2.2.2. Developing an awards program for owners of significant trees;
 - 2.2.3. Compiling a list of City-certified or approved arborists; or
 - 2.2.4. Providing tree maintenance tips for private tree owners.
- 2.3. Encourage businesses and residents to use sustainable drainage techniques, such as rain barrels, rain gardens, bioswales and green roofs to reduce storm water runoff.
- 2.4. In conjunction with the RSC and local civic organizations, initiate an education campaign on composting, highlighting the benefits of composting for healthy lawn maintenance, while identifying the cost reductions that arise from decreases in lawn/household waste.
- 2.5. In conjunction with the RSC, local civic organizations and neighboring municipal environmental committees, launch a Leave Leaves Alone Initiative to educate the community about the financial and environmental benefits of leaf mulching-in-place programs. Provide information via the Rye City website, and/or informational pamphlets, workshops, on how residents can save time and money by shredding and leaving leaves on their lawns, and how the municipality can reduce trucking costs.

SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS IN OUR COMMUNITY



Environmental Advocacy Group of Rye (EAGR)

Since its formation in 2007, EAGR has become a grassroots force; its mission is to identify areas of environmental concern that impact the citizens of Rye. It advocates through education and awareness campaigns, utilizing the services and full force of government and ordinances, the people of Rye, as well as other involved partner organizations.

EAGR believes that the protection of our local natural resources and environmental landscape



ensures a healthier and safer community. This improves quality of life, and preserves the intrinsic character of our town for all residents.

Successful EAGR campaigns to date include:

- * Conducting a community-based environmental forum showcasing a myriad of local speakers and stakeholders in January 2008
- * Passage of a seasonal leaf-blower ban ordinance
- * Aiding in the installation of recycling units in downtown Rye
- * Conducting an awareness campaign on the dangers of lawn pesticides
- * Holding a 'Candidate's Forum' in 2009 to discuss local candidates' positions on environmental and other issues
- * Publishing "Six Easy & Inexpensive Steps the Homeowner Can Take to Help Reduce Flooding"
- * Mitigating invasive vine proliferation along Playland Parkway
- * Encouraging the observation of Earth Hour 2010
- * Producing and distributing a 'Green Homes Tips' tri-fold brochure
- * Advocating for an improved and strengthened City-wide tree ordinance



SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Friends of Rye Nature Center (FRNC)

The FRNC is a non-profit organization devoted to environmental education, conservation, and advocacy in Rye and its surrounding communities. In addition to managing and operating the Rye Nature Center, the City of Rye's 47-acre forest and wildlife sanctuary, annually the FRNC provides environmental programs and nature interpretation to over 12,000 visitors. The FRNC has direct partnerships with both Rye City and other local school districts to provide yearly nature and science study tours for elementary and middle school students. Additional initiatives include:

- Forest Conservation.** In 2006, the FRNC worked with the Department of Environmental Conservation to create a Forestry Stewardship Plan that would serve as a blueprint for managing the City's 47 acres. In 2011, the FRNC began *Project Regeneration*, a long-term conservation endeavor made possible through a grant from Con Edison. The first phase of this project included enclosing four acres of woodland at the RNC with a fence system to protect and preserve it from over browsing deer. In the spring of 2013, new natives will be planted in this area and a model forest walk will be created with interpretative signage to educate visitors about forest regeneration.
- Storm Water Management.** The FRNC has taken several steps to educate Rye residents about best practices for storm water management. Through a grant from the Westchester Community Foundation, the FRNC created an educational video, *Flood Control: What You Can Do*. In addition, the FRNC is in the process of finishing a rain garden and green roof demonstration on site to show visitors what they can do at their own homes to control storm water.
- Decreasing Nature Deficit in Children.** In 2009, the first phase of *Nature's Playground* was begun on site with plans to complete the final phase in spring 2013. In addition, the FRNC has collaborated with the Inner-City Scholarship Fund to bring kids from underprivileged, urban areas to summer camp each year for the last five years. The FRNC also provides numerous local children with scholarships to attend camps, workshops, and programs.
- Supporting Sustainable Consumer Practices.** In 2004, the FRNC launched an initiative, *Keep the Green in Rye*, to educate residents about using reusable bags for shopping. Bags were made available at various retail locations in the city and were available for purchase at the Nature Center. This year, after the RSC successfully worked to have the City pass the Retail Shopping Bag Ordinance, the FRNC has created another reusable bag for consumers to use.





Community Awareness/Outreach

Provide open communication between City Hall and Rye residents through adoption of the Rye Sustainability Plan and with the creation of a dedicated, comprehensive sustainability page on ryeny.gov. Foster and encourage a lifestyle that embraces sustainability principles through educational programs sponsored by the Rye Sustainability Committee and/or local civic organizations.

Community Awareness/Outreach - Summary

In order for Rye to become a sustainable community, outreach and education is essential. A main focus of the Rye Sustainability Committee is to engage residents and employees, communicate goals and objectives and solicit feedback and suggestions from community members. When the RSC was launched, the first initiative was the Mayor's Forum. In this setting, the community gathered to understand the background of sustainability, how it relates to the Rye community and a discussion about appropriate initiatives. From that point on, the sustainability committee has reached out to Rye residents and local organizations to support important activities such as the reusable bag initiative and launch of the "Green Screen" series. Moving forward, the RSC intends to create workshops on relevant topics such as energy efficiency, pesticide use, trees, green building practices and other areas of interest to our community.

[insert info on website]

Community Awareness/Outreach - Accomplishments

- ✓ The City has completed the Rye Sustainability Plan to provide its citizens with a framework for achieving critical environmental goals.
- ✓ The City has a dedicated page for sustainability issues on the ryeny.gov site.
- ✓ Residents and City Council are kept informed through periodic updates from the RSC.
- ✓ The RSC has promoted awareness through a number of initiatives and events:
 - Hosted a Mayor's Forum to introduce the concept of sustainability and highlight sustainability efforts within Westchester County.



- Created an informational pamphlet about the committee and its mission.
 - Members have participated in a variety of “Eye on Rye” productions to inform the public about sustainability and environmental issues.
 - Committee members have participated in a number of community events to provide information about sustainability issues.
 - Committee members have met with a number of organizations to provide information and solicit feedback.
 - The RSC has collaborated with other community sustainability committees to learn best practices and educate residents on common issues.
- ✓ In partnership with Rye Country Day School, the RSC launched the first Rye Green Screen, with its screening of “*Bag It*”. The 2013 Green Screen will be held in February 2013.
 - ✓ The RSC launched the first RSC Celebrates Earth Day, with a number of activities, including a Sound Shore Communities’ Joint No Idling Day, a declaration by City Council to enforce the existing no-idling laws, and the launch of Rye’s retail shopping bag law.

Community Awareness/Outreach – Action Steps

1. Municipal

With the assistance of the RSC, the City can promote its accomplishments on sustainability issues while providing important information. There are a number of ways the RSC can promote awareness and educate the community.

1.1. Expand the existing RSC page on the ryeny.gov site to include:

- 1.1.1. an outline of the Rye Sustainability Plan that includes periodic progress reports;
- 1.1.2. news related to sustainability and environmental issues;
- 1.1.3. useful links;
- 1.1.4. helpful tips;
- 1.1.5. an events calendar;
- 1.1.6. links to green businesses and contractors; and/or
- 1.1.7. A questionnaire for the public to solicit feedback.



- 1.2. Create an electronic Rye Sustainability newsletter to inform the public about relevant news and events.
- 1.3. Institute “Go Green” events periodically to promote a specific sustainability topic. Possible topics could include: composting, how to make homes more energy efficient, grease recycling, options for heating using solar energy, insulating private homes.
- 1.4. Create strategic partnerships with businesses to educate owners on the benefits of energy efficiency and conservation.
- 1.5. Form partnerships with neighboring communities, similar to NWEAC and SWEAC.
- 1.6. Use current community events to promote specific sustainability topics.
- 1.7. Recognize significant environmental achievements made by citizens, organizations or the business community through an annual sustainability award.

2. *Community-Based Initiatives*

Our schools and local organizations are well equipped to educate the community about important sustainability issues. _____

SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS IN OUR SCHOOLS

Milton School has long had an active Environmental Committee which supplements curriculum with environmental education for grades K-5. The goal is that the children learn and feel empowered; that they understand that if we each do little things we can collectively make a difference for the environment. Parent volunteers bring together lesson plans, assemblies, field trips and recess programs about climate change, recycling, pollution and other environmental issues. It is truly a collaborative effort in that we organize different programs and take on projects with our principal, Dr. Nardone, teachers, students and the Milton Student Council, all working together.

Initiatives have included the following:

- Ecological Footprinting Assemblies for 4th & 5th grade
- Planning & executing the Milton Sustainable Garden

- Reduce & Reuse Book Swaps for America Recycles Week and Earth Week
- 3rd grade field trips to the Westchester Recycling Facility
- Walk to School for Earth Week
- Holiday Card Recycling to benefit St. Jude’s Ranch, a charity for abused and abandoned children
- Printer Cartridge and Electronic Recycling Fundraisers
- Anti-vehicle idling rallies
- Daffodil planting in front of school
- Sales of reusable stainless steel water bottles
- Grades 3, 4 &-5 lesson plans on how damaging bottled water is to the environment
- Rye Garden Club lesson plans for grades K and 2
- “Bash The Trash” Recycling Assembly
- K-5 visits to the Veggie Van, a mobile classroom that educates on pollution, recycling and climate change
- “Plastic Beach” trash collection for Earth Week followed by assembly on the pervasiveness of plastic in our lives by Grassroots Environmental
- Crayon recycling
- Implemented paper and plastic recycling at Milton
- Worked with food services to find alternatives to polystyrene lunch trays

SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Rye Garden Club (RGC)



The RGC, a nearly 100-year old organization, is made up of 60 active club members and 37 sustaining and affiliate members. They share a love of gardening and the natural world and are dedicated to the Garden Club of America’s mission.

Ongoing work in town in accordance with this mission includes:

- ***Funding and organizing a program for the public each year on***

conservation or gardening topics. This year’s presentation was a tree identification and care program led by two arborists at the Rye Nature Center. In 2010, the RGC sponsored a program at the Rye Free Reading Room led by Gray Russell, an environmental coordinator in New Jersey. He led a program for the public about recycling, composting, grass-cycling, water conservation and eco-friendly yard care. In 2009, the Club funded a talk by Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home* on the importance of planting native species to support wildlife and a healthy eco-system. In 2008, a lecture by Brian Hallowell on the locavore movement was sponsored.

- **A comprehensive conservation education program that is offered to Rye nursery and elementary schools.** For nursery and kindergarten, RGC presents *Drip and Drop*, an



interactive lesson of stories and songs about the water cycle that helps teach why water is a precious resource. Second grade classrooms work with RGC’s *Enviroscape* in an interactive lesson about water pollution. The *Enviroscape* is a model of a watershed area much like Rye to which students add pollutants and then add “rain” and watch the effects of pollution on water bodies and ground water. In the 2011–2012 school year, *Drip and Drop* was presented to 300 children. The *Enviroscape* lesson was presented to 200 children. Additionally, the *Polly Paper* exhibit travels to schools each year. The program guides children ages K-5 through a colorful

and lively exhibit illustrating the process of paper recycling, from its collection at curbside to its remanufacture as new paper products. Over 300 children have met Polly in area schools.

- **Sponsoring elementary school field trips to the MRF, the Materials Recovery Facility in Yonkers,** to see and learn about the recycling processes in our area.
- **Writing an environmental stewardship column in each edition of the local paper entitled, “Green Space”, since 2008.** Topics have included gardening with native plants, recycling tips, alternatives to chemical fertilizers, the importance of trees, how to be a locavore, the effects of pesticides, ways to reduce energy use and much more.
- **Displaying year round at the Jay Heritage Center’s carriage house for free touring, the “Home Green Home” Dollhouse.** This award-winning dollhouse was handmade by members of the RGC. Its landscape demonstrates green building and decorating techniques, water run-off mitigation and practices that can be incorporated into the home, property and daily life to conserve resources and promote sustainability.
- **Planting and maintaining planted pots** along Purchase Street, Purdy Street and Rye Train Station.
- **Maintaining the gardens** at the Rye Free Reading Room, the Square House and the Knapp House traffic island.







IMPLEMENTATION AND TRACKING

Summary

Progress Tables

ENERGY				
INITIATIVE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIMEFRAME		
		SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
1.1 asdfdlkjf;	Municipal			X
1.2 asdfdlkjf;	Community	X		

Note:

- Short Term: 1 – 3 years
- Medium Term: 3 – 5 years
- Long Term: 5 + years



APPENDICES

Resources/End Notes

1. Government Sites

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): <http://www.epa.gov/>

- Guide for Local Governments:
<http://www.epa.gov/region2/sustainability/greencommunities/>
- Green Communities page, providing information on the Five Steps to Community Sustainability, sustainability programs (green business and building green):
<http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/index.htm>
- Green Living page: <http://www.epa.gov/gateway/learn/greenliving.html>
- Information on waste reduction, composting:
<http://www.epa.gov/gateway/learn/wastes.html>

Department of Environmental Protection (DOE): <http://energy.gov>

- Information on making your home energy efficient: <http://energy.gov/public-services/homes>
- Information on alternative fuels, vehicles, idling reduction: <http://energy.gov/public-services/vehicles>

Energy Star: <http://www.energystar.gov/>

- EPA/DOE program designed to help residents and businesses save money while protecting the environment through energy efficient products and practices.
- List of ENERGY Star products:
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.
- Comprehensive FAQ page, searchable by topic:
<http://energystar.supportportal.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=23018>

State

NY State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA):

- Main page: <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov>:
- Information on energy efficiency and renewable programs: <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/en/Energy-Efficiency-and-Renewable-Programs.aspx>
- Energy saving tips: <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Residential/Energy-Saving-Tips.aspx>
- Funding opportunities: <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Funding-Opportunities.aspx>

NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC):

- Main page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/>
- Information on energy conservation, climate change, sustainability planning and renewable energy: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/60.html>

Westchester County Government links:

- Recycling page: <http://environment.westchestergov.com/recycling>
- Environment page: <http://environment.westchestergov.com/>

2. Organizations

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC): <https://new.usgbc.org/>

A nonprofit organization committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities.

Low Impact Development Center: <http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/>

A non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of Low Impact Development technology. Low Impact Development is a comprehensive land planning and engineering design approach with an emphasis on storm-water management. Information on tools for creating a low-impact environment, including green roofs, permeable pavers, rain barrels, cisterns, and more.

Star Community Index: <http://www.starcommunities.org/>



Developed by ICLEI, the USGBC and the Center for American Progress, STAR provides a new, standardized framework for local governments to plan, track and promote their environmental and sustainability work. STAR is intended to serve as a rating system, not a ranking system. It will provide local governments with a system to evaluate their own progress and recognize their achievements through a continuous improvement process.

The Natural Step: <http://www.thenaturalstep.org/en>

Not-for-profit dedicated to education, advisory work and research in sustainable development. The Natural Step has worked with thousands of corporations, municipalities, academic institutions and not-for-profits to reduce costs as well as ecological and social impacts. Engages with business to integrate sustainability principles into their core strategies, decisions, and operations. Contains information on services, research, and education activities.

Sustainable Hudson Valley: <http://www.sustainhv.org/>

Includes a very comprehensive list of case studies and resources page with links to local sustainability organizations.

3. Sites Specifically Related to Building Sustainable Communities

How Green is My Town: <http://www.howgreenismytown.org/index.html>

HGIMT is an EPA-award winning environmental assessment program designed to help local governments in their efforts to address issues of climate change, sustainability and environmental health. It provides educational material, a useful checklist, and helpful tools for building sustainable local governments, schools and businesses.

Sustainable Communities Online: <http://www.sustainable.org/>

Coalition of organizations around the United States in the mid-1990s. The intent of the SCN was to pool information on sustainability to make it more readily accessible to the public. CONCERN, Inc. and the Community Sustainability Resource Institute managed the SCN from 1993–2001 and CONCERN has managed it since then Identifies quality resources on sustainability and disseminates them to the public. Contains info resources including case studies on community initiatives toward sustainability. Organized along the following



themes: creating community, smart growth, growing a sustainable economy, protecting natural resources, governing sustainably, and living sustainably. Doc, “Tools for Community Action” may be helpful.

Smart Communities Network:

- Definitions page

Environmental and Energy Study Institute

Sector Specific Sites:

Although the following link is geared towards the EU – it is a very informative reference about biofuels and city fleets.

http://www.biofuel-cities.eu/fileadmin/template/projects/biofuels/files/Publications/bcleaflet_english.pdf

4. Local Organizations

Rye Nature Center: <http://www.ryenaturecenter.org/>

5. Sustainability Plans

By no means comprehensive, the following list includes plans that we referred to in preparing the Rye Sustainability Plan and recommend as good references.

- *Town of Bedford Climate Action Plan (2009)*
- *Village of Larchmont Climate Action Plan (2012)*
- *GreeNR – The New Rochelle Sustainability Plan (2010)*
- *Westchester Action Plan for Climate Change and Sustainable Development (2008)*
- *City of El Paso Livable City Sustainability Plan*
- *Irondequoit Comprehensive Environmental and Energy Policy (2009)*
- *City of Claremont Sustainable City Plan (2008)*



- *Pasadena Green City Action Plan (2006)*
- *Village of Fairport Sustainability Plan (2010)*
- *Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan (2008)*
- *Plan-It Newburgh Sustainable Master Plan (2008)*
- *Boulder County, CO Environmental Sustainability Plan (2012)*
- *Town of Collingwood Sustainable Community Plan (2008), Canada*
- *ICLEI Templates for Sustainability Plans*

Glossary/Acronyms

- Agenda 21** A global plan for achieving Sustainable Development in the 21st century
- Anthropogenic** Made by people or resulting from human activities. Usually used in the context of emissions that are produced as a result of human activities.
- Atmosphere** The gaseous envelope surrounding the Earth.
- Bio Energy** Renewable energy made available from materials derived from biological sources such as wood, straw, manure, sugarcane, etc.
- Biosphere** The part of the Earth system comprising all ecosystems and living organisms, in the atmosphere, on land (terrestrial biosphere) or in the oceans (marine biosphere), including derived dead organic matter, such as litter, soil organic matter and oceanic detritus.
- BTU** A unit used to describe heat units or energy values. It is typically used to specify the heating or cooling power of appliances such as furnaces, air-conditioners, stoves, grills, etc.
- Cap-and-Trade Program** Also known as **Emissions Trading**, the government caps the amount of CO₂ emissions that may be emitted, by selling emissions permits i.e. the right to emit a specific volume of the specific pollutant. Firms are required to hold a number of permits equivalent to their emissions. Since the total number of permits cannot exceed the cap, firms must buy emissions permits from those who require fewer permits. This transfer is called a trade.
- Carbon Cycle** All parts (reservoirs) and fluxes of carbon. The cycle is usually thought of as four main reservoirs of carbon interconnected by pathways of exchange. The reservoirs are the atmosphere, terrestrial biosphere (usually includes freshwater systems), oceans, and sediments (includes fossil fuels). The annual movements of carbon, the carbon exchanges between reservoirs, occur because of various chemical, physical, geological, and biological processes. The ocean contains the largest pool of carbon near the surface of the Earth, but most of that pool is not



involved with rapid exchange with the atmosphere.

Carbon Dioxide

A naturally occurring gas, and also a by-product of burning fossil fuels and biomass, as well as land-use changes and other industrial processes. It is the principal human caused greenhouse gas

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent

A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential (GWP). Carbon dioxide equivalents are commonly expressed as "million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MMTCO₂Eq)." The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tons of the gas by the associated GWP.

Carbon Footprint

The total amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted into the atmosphere each year by a person, family, building, organization, or company. A person's carbon footprint includes greenhouse gas emissions from fuel that an individual burns directly, such as by heating a home or riding in a car. It also includes greenhouse gases that come from producing the goods or services that the individual uses, including emissions from power plants that make electricity, factories that make products, and landfills where trash gets sent.

Carbon Monoxide

A colorless, odorless, highly poisonous gas, CO, formed by the incomplete combustion of carbon or a carbonaceous material, such as gasoline.

CCAC

Conservation Commission Advisory Council of the City of Rye

CFL

Compact fluorescent light

Clean Air Act

Congress introduces legislation to reduce harmful emissions from industry and power plants.

Clean Air and Climate Protection Software (CACPS)

Software tool that was developed by ICLEI to help convert energy use into GHG emissions.

Climate

Climate in a narrow sense is usually defined as the "average weather," or more rigorously, as the statistical description in terms of the mean and

variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands of years. The classical period is 3 decades, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). These quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind. Climate in a wider sense is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system.

Climate Change	Climate change refers to any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period of time. In other words, climate change includes major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among others, that occur over several decades or longer.
CO2	A colorless, odorless, incombustible gas formed during respiration, combustion, and organic decomposition.
CO2e	CO2 equivalent
Cool Roofs	A cool roof reflects and emits the sun's heat back to the sky instead of transferring it to the building below. "Coolness" is measured by two properties, solar reflectance and thermal emissions.
CSA	Community Supported Agriculture
Deforestation	Those practices or processes that result in the conversion of forested lands for non-forest uses. Deforestation contributes to increasing carbon dioxide concentrations for two reasons: 1) the burning or decomposition of the wood releases carbon dioxide; and 2) trees that once removed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in the process of photosynthesis are no longer present.
EAGR	Environmental Advocacy group of Rye (see box on pg. [Insert p. #])
Energy Audit	An energy audit is an analysis of a single building or campus, which indicates how and where that building or campus can reduce energy consumption and costs.
Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro	Meeting of 172 governments to development a global action plan for Sustainable Development.



Emissions Trading	See “Cap-and-Trade Program”
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Fossil Fuel	A general term for organic materials formed from decayed plants and animals that have been converted to crude oil, coal, natural gas, or heavy oils by exposure to heat and pressure in the earth's crust over hundreds of millions of years.
Geothermal Energy	Thermal energy and heat that is stored in the earth.
Greenhouse Effect	Trapping and build-up of heat in the atmosphere (troposphere) near the Earth's surface. Some of the heat flowing back toward space from the Earth's surface is absorbed by water vapor, carbon dioxide, ozone, and several other gases in the atmosphere and then reradiated back toward the Earth's surface. If the atmospheric concentrations of these greenhouse gases rise, the average temperature of the lower atmosphere will gradually increase. See greenhouse gas, anthropogenic, climate, global warming.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	Greenhouse gases are heat-trapping gases that occur when we burn fossil fuels, such as coal and oil.
GHG Inventory	Account of energy consumed and associated GHG emissions within a defined entity.
HER	Home Energy Rating: a measurement of a home's energy efficiency
Hydrocarbon	Any of numerous organic compounds, such as benzene and methane, that contain only carbon and hydrogen.
Hydropower	Power derived from the energy of falling water.
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, formed in 1990

Infrared Radiation

Infrared radiation consists of light whose wavelength is longer than the red color in the visible part of the spectrum, but shorter than microwave radiation. Infrared radiation can be perceived as heat. The Earth's surface, the atmosphere, and clouds all emit infrared radiation, which is also known as terrestrial or long-wave radiation. In contrast, solar radiation is mainly short-wave radiation because of the temperature of the Sun. See radiation, greenhouse effect, enhanced greenhouse effect, global warming.

IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. It was established by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. In the same year, the UN General Assembly endorsed the action by WMO and UNEP in jointly establishing the IPCC.

Kerosene

A thin, clear liquid formed from hydrocarbons.

Kyoto Protocol

Agreement between nations to mandate country-by-country reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions.

LED

LED stands for light emitting diode. LED lights use at least 75% less energy than incandescent lighting, last 35 to 50 times longer than incandescent lighting and about 2 to 5 times longer than fluorescent lighting and produce very little heat.

Low Flow Plumbing Fixtures

Help save water. In 1995, the National Energy Policy Act mandated the use of toilets that use no more than 1.6 gallons of water per flush. Since then, low-flow plumbing fixtures including toilets, faucet aerators and showerheads have been developed that save substantial amounts of water compared to conventional fixtures while providing the same utility.

Methane

An odorless, colorless, flammable gas, CH₄, the major constituent of natural gas, that is used as a fuel and is an important source of hydrogen and a wide variety of organic compounds; a greenhouse gas.

MMB

One million BTU.



NYSERDA	The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, established in 1975.
Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x)	A group of different gases made up of different levels of oxygen and nitrogen. Two of the most common nitrogen oxides are: Nitrogen Dioxide and Nitric Oxide. NO _x is given off in many forms, such as smog or particles. Is formed when certain fuels (oil, gas and coal) are burned at a high temperature, such as combustion. Helps form acid rain and contributes to global warming.
Ocean Energy	The ocean can produce two types of energy: <i>thermal energy</i> from the sun's heat, and <i>mechanical energy</i> from the tides and waves. Oceans cover more than 70% of Earth's surface, making them the world's largest solar collectors. The sun's heat warms the surface water a lot more than the deep ocean water, and this temperature difference creates thermal energy.
Ozone	A gas that occurs both in the Earth's upper atmosphere and at ground level. Ozone can be "good" or "bad" for people's health and for the environment, depending on its location in the atmosphere.
PCSD	Council on Sustainable Development under President Clinton, formed in 1993 and terminated six years later.
PlaNYC	New York City's Sustainability Plan introduced in 2007.
RCDS	Rye Country Day School
RNC	Rye Nature Center
RSC	Rye Sustainability Committee, established in October 2010.
RSP	Rye Sustainability Plan
Solar Energy	Radiant heat and light from the sun.
SRREN	Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation issued by IPCC.



Sulfur Dioxide Emissions

Sustainable Development

As defined by the Brundtland Commission (1987): development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

VOC

Wind energy

Kinetic energy from the wind is converted into mechanical energy.



SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT: Trees for our Changing Environment

The City of Rye is a truly beautiful municipality to reside in. The city is endowed with many natural assets including a waterfront position on the Long Island Sound, the Edith Read Sanctuary, the Marshlands Conservancy, Rye Town Park, the Rye Nature Center, and other unique resources. However, the one defining feature that sets us apart from many surrounding Westchester municipalities is the number of trees that line our streets and grace our yards. Many residents would agree that it is the amount and variety of trees that imbue the City of Rye with its fundamental beauty and leafy allure.

Despite their natural appeal, our City's trees are constantly threatened by many direct and indirect forces. New development and clear-cutting are a continual threat, as are invasive species, but in the past several years there have been a growing number of extreme weather events that have destroyed and damaged hundreds of trees in Rye. Just in the past year and a half alone, Hurricane Irene, the snowstorm of October 2011 and Hurricane Sandy have wreaked havoc on our trees.

This trend is reflected on a larger scale throughout the U.S. The results of a U.S. Forest Service Study National results that were released in February 2012 indicate that "tree cover in urban areas of the United States is declining at a rate of about 4 million trees per year ... Tree cover in 17 of the 20 cities analyzed in the study declined while 16 cities saw increases in impervious cover, which includes pavement and rooftops." The study included a cost/benefit analysis that showed that "The benefits derived from urban trees provide a return three times greater than tree care costs, (including) as much as \$2,500 in environmental services such as reduced heating and cooling costs during a tree's lifetime."

Despite their many long-term economic and environmental benefits, the potential dangers posed by falling trees and branches during these storms have made trees a public relations challenge. Residents are rightly worried about protecting their families and properties from downed trees and limbs. Given the proliferation in the number of extreme weather events that Rye is experiencing, many residents might choose to proactively remove healthy trees from their yards rather than run the risk that the next storm will cause them to topple.

In summary, several dynamics here in the City of Rye are causing the removal of trees at an accelerated pace: 1) new development and construction are stripping trees 2) extreme weather events are destroying and damaging trees more frequently 3) residents may intentionally be removing trees to avoid the risk that they may fall during the next extreme weather event. Given these converging factors, it is an exigent time to review and highlight the importance of trees and the many advantages they confer; how to minimize the dangers posed by trees by planting the right tree in the right place; and how best to protect and care for our trees.

Why Trees Matter

In an April 11th, 2012 Op-Ed piece in *The New York Times*, Jim Robbins writes that "We have underestimated the importance of trees. They are not merely pleasant sources of shade but a potentially major answer to some of our most pressing environmental problems. We take them for granted, but they are a near miracle." Below is a list of some of the reasons why trees are a natural environmental ally here in Rye.

1. Flood Mitigation

The City of Rye has experienced a number of severe floods in the past decade – two back-to-back episodes in the spring of 2007 and another major flood in the wake of 2011's Hurricane Irene. Trees are important flood mitigators as they absorb storm-water runoff. According to the USDA Forest Service, a single tree in the Northeast can absorb over 1,900 gallons of water per year. Their introduction to the guidelines for reducing storm-water runoff reads as follows "Trees are mini-reservoirs, controlling runoff volumes and erosion of watercourses, as well as delaying the onset of peak flows....Studies that have simulated urban forest effects on storm-water runoff have reported reductions of 2 to 7 percent." Benefits associated with rainfall interception and reducing storm-water runoff are substantial for all tree types."

In addition, trees have been shown to influence the flow of water. Trees reduce topsoil erosion by catching precipitation with their leaf canopies. This lessens the force of storms and slows down water runoff which in turn ensures that our groundwater supplies are continually being replenished. Along with breaking the fall of rainwater, tree roots remove nutrients that are harmful to water ecology and quality. Leaves that have fallen from the trees and begun to decay form an organic layer that allows water to percolate into the soil which also aids in the reduction of runoff and soil erosion. All of this also helps reduce street flooding and sedimentation in streams.

2. Climate Change Reduction

Trees act as natural greenhouse gas sinks. Suburban forests reduce atmospheric CO₂ by directly sequestering CO₂ in their stems and leaves while they grow. According to the USDA's *Northeast Community Tree Guide*, "a study of New York City's urban forest found that trees stored 1.35 million tons of atmospheric CO₂...The 5.2 million trees sequestered approximately 42,329 tons of atmospheric CO₂ annually." Planting trees remains one of the most cost-effective means of drawing excess CO₂ from the atmosphere. If every American family planted one tree, the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere would be reduced by one billion pounds annually. This equates to almost 5 percent of the amount that human activity pumps into the atmosphere each year.

3. Air Quality Enhancement

Trees also remove other gaseous pollutants through the stomata in the leaf surface by absorbing them with normal air components. Some of the other major air pollutants and their primary sources are:

- Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) – Sixty percent of sulfur dioxide comes from coal burning for electricity and home heating while 21 percent comes from refining and the combustion of petroleum products.
- Ozone (O₃) – Ozone is a naturally occurring oxidant that exists in the upper atmosphere. O₃ may be brought to Earth by turbulence during severe storms. Also, small amounts are formed by lightning. Automobile emissions and industrial emissions mix in the air and undergo photochemical reactions in sunlight releasing ozone and another oxidant, peroxyacetylnitrate (PAN). Naturally, high concentrations of these two oxidants build up where there are many automobiles.
- Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) – Probably the largest producer of nitrogen oxide is automotive exhaust. These are also formed by high temperature combustion when two natural air components are

present; nitrogen and oxygen.

- **Particulates** – These are small particles emitted in smoke from burning fuel, particularly diesel, which enters our lungs and causes respiratory problems. With trees present, there is up to a 60 percent reduction in street-level particulates.

Studies have shown that in one urban park, tree cover removed 48 pounds of particulates, 9 pounds of nitrogen dioxide, 6 pounds of sulfur dioxide, 0.5 pounds of carbon monoxide and 100 pounds of carbon – daily. It has also been noted that one sugar maple along a roadway removes 60mg cadmium, 140mg chromium, 820mg nickel and 5,200mg lead from the environment in one growing season.

4. Energy Conservation

Trees help to modify local climate by lowering air temperature, increasing humidity, influencing wind speeds and reducing glare. In the warmer months of the year, urban areas realize lower air temperatures when trees are strategically planted along streets and near buildings. These trees provide shade and evaporation of water through the transpiration process. The evaporation from a single large tree can produce the cooling effect of 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 24 hours a day. Communities in which homeowners utilize trees in their landscaping also benefit. When homeowners properly place trees in landscaping they benefit from savings on daytime air conditioning. For example, three or more large trees strategically placed on the sunny sides of a house will provide enough shade to reduce air-conditioning costs by as much as 30 percent. Trees (mostly evergreen trees, as deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter) also help with energy costs in the winter by blocking cold winds thereby reducing the strain on heating units. These energy savings, when spread over many houses, neighborhoods and urban areas, can reduce the demand for power production by utility plants, which also reduce the amount of air pollutants produced by these power plants.

5. Wildlife Habitat

It is only natural that wherever trees are planted, wildlife and other plants are sure to follow. Trees provide shelter and food for a variety of birds and small animals, such as squirrels and beavers. Enhancing growth diversity, trees create an environment that allows the growth of plants that otherwise would not be there.

Flowers, fruits, leaves, buds and woody parts of trees are used by many different species. Bacteria and fungi contained in tree parts cause decay which makes nesting easier for some birds and increases soil fertility and structure for furrowing by other land animals.

Trees also provide shade, reduce water and air temperatures and contribute to the overall health of aquatic ecosystems by providing habitat, shelter and food for aquatic species such as turtles, otters, beavers and fish.

6. Aesthetic and Real-Estate Value

Trees add beauty to their surroundings by adding color to an area, softening harsh lines of buildings, screening unsightly views and contributing to the character of their environment. Trees have also proven to contribute to a community’s economy and way of life. Depending on species, maturity, quantity and location, property values increase 5 to 15 percent when compared to properties without trees.

Trees enhance their surroundings in many ways. Trees planted along and around buildings provide a distraction for the eye, softening the background and screening unsightly views. Trees also contribute eye-catching colors to their surroundings, from the different shades of green found in the leaves, the colors found in flowering trees and sometimes even the bark of the tree.

Trees also lend to the preservation of streets paved with asphalt. Asphalt paving contains stone aggregate in an oil binder. Without shade provided by trees, the oil heats up and volatilizes, leaving the aggregate unprotected. Vehicles then drive over the aggregate causing it to loosen which grinds down the pavement. Therefore, not only do trees help to maintain the integrity of community roads, they also lower costs expended on re-paving roadways.

The condition of a community’s trees and collectively, its urban forests, is usually the first impression a community projects to its visitors. A community’s urban forest is an extension of its pride and community spirit. Studies show that trees also enhance community economic stability by attracting businesses and tourists as people tend to linger and shop longer along tree-lined streets. Studies have also shown that apartments and offices in wooded areas rent more quickly and businesses leasing office spaces in developments with trees reported higher productivity and fewer absences.

Invasive Trees

Planting invasive tree species is detrimental to our environment and economy. Invasive species have specific traits or specific combinations of traits that allow them to out-compete native species. Invasive species grow and reproduce quickly, and spread aggressively, with potential to cause harm. The DEC website defines invasive species as "a species that is: (a) non-native to the ecosystem under consideration; and (b) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.". Currently, the City of Rye tree code (Chapter 187) prohibits “property owners and other persons from planting silver maples and allied species, ailanthus and poplars of any variety within a distance of 20 feet from any public street, right-of-way, sidewalk or other public place.”

A list of invasive species in the New England area can be found in the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE). The following are the species identified to be invasive in this geographic region.

Scientific Name	Common Name
Acer ginnala Maxim.	Amur maple
Acer platanoides L.	Norway maple
Acer pseudoplatanus L.	Sycamore maple

Ailanthus altissima (Mill.)	Tree of heaven
Alnus glutinosa (L.)	European black alder
Paulownia tomentosa	Princess tree
Populus alba L.	White poplar
Robinia pseudoacacia L.	Black locust

The Right Tree in the Right Place

In order to avoid some of the dangers and inconveniences posed by mature trees that the City of Rye has witnessed during recent weather events, it is essential to consider exactly what tree type is best for the space before it is to be planted. A proper landscape plan takes each tree into consideration. Below is a list of important factors to consider before planting a tree.

- 1. Height.** Will the tree bump into anything when it is fully grown or will it pose a potential hazard to a building or residence once it is mature.
- 2. Canopy spread.** How wide will the tree grow? Again, will its mature canopy eventual cause undesirable proximity to a building or residence.
- 3. Is the tree deciduous or coniferous?** (Will it lose its leaves in the winter?)
- 4. Form or shape.** A columnar tree will grow in less space. Round and V-Shaped species provide the most shade.
- 5. Growth rate.** How long will it take for your tree to reach its full height? Slow growing species typically live longer than fast growing species.
- 6. Invasives.** Is the tree species native to this region? Invasive trees tend to grow quickly with a shallow root system causing them to be more prone to blow-downs. In addition, native species are the optimum choice for wildlife habitat restoration or enhancement.
- 7. Soil, sun, and moisture requirements.**
- 8. Fruit.** No one wants messy droppings on busy sidewalks.
- 9. Hardiness zone** indicates the temperature extremes in which a tree can be expected to grow.

Pruning Standards

Caring for and pruning our trees properly is vital to maintaining tree health and promoting their safe growth which helps minimize the dangers they can pose. For more information on proper tree care, residents can refer to the pruning standards set forth by ANSI (American National Standards Institute) and ISA (International Society of Arboriculture).

1. Why Prune a Tree?

Health

- Remove dead, damaged and diseased branches to help prevent insect & decay organisms from entering the tree.

- Thin a dense canopy on a tree to increase air and sunlight, resulting in fewer disease problems.
- Remove suckers & water sprouts to eliminate weak wood and provide more food and water for the tree.
- Eliminate crossing branches to prevent damage caused by their rubbing against each other.
- Weak or narrow crotches split apart as the tree grows older. Remove these crotches to eliminate breaking and tearing of wood.
- Remove co-dominant leaders. Co-dominant leaders are two branches growing near the top of a tree that grow straight up and become equally dominant. Cutting off one allows the other branch to grow & become the dominant branch. This prevents the branches from splitting and tearing wood that is often a problem in heavy winds.

Safety

Correct pruning procedures create & maintain a strong tree structure, preventing safety hazards such as low growing branches and growth forms subject to storm damage near a house, driveway or sidewalk.

Maintain natural tree form

Often erratic or vigorous branches grow that change the growth habit of other branches and results in a misshaped tree. Early removal of these vigorous branches maintains a natural tree form.

Stimulate or restrict growth

Pruning can stimulate growth in sparse areas of the tree. Pruning can also restrict growth where too much growth is undesirable.

2. When Do You Prune a Tree?

Dead, damaged, and diseased branches should be removed as soon as possible. Otherwise, the best time to prune is in late winter, early spring, just before the tree begins to open its buds. While pruning can be done anytime, it is always good to avoid hot dry periods and extreme winter cold. If you do prune trees after the leaves have opened, be sure to allow them to fully develop their leaves plus some additional time to recoup the energy they used.



SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT: Waste Disposal Options for Reduction of Overall Carbon Footprint

Waste disposal is an extremely important environmental issue for cities everywhere. Not only must we generate less waste but we can also reuse/recycle the waste we do create in an energy efficient manner. The City of Rye Sustainability Committee is looking for ways to reduce costs of waste removal and decrease our waste footprint. With this in mind, there are two waste recycling initiatives, which can help mitigate the proliferation of our waste.

1. Greasecycling

Greasecycling is the conversion of used cooking oil into a clean burning fuel called biodiesel. Oil is collected from restaurants, clubs and other establishments. It is then refined and used as feedstock for biodiesel.

“Biodiesel contains no petroleum, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to create a biodiesel blend. It can be used in compression ignition (diesel) engines with no major modifications. Biodiesel is simple to use, biodegradable, nontoxic, and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics.” This renewable energy meets strict industry standards and is extremely energy efficient. “ A U.S. Department of Energy study showed that the production and use of biodiesel, compared to petroleum diesel, resulted in a 78.5% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. Moreover, biodiesel has a positive energy balance. For every unit of energy needed to produce a gallon of biodiesel, at least 4.5 units of energy are gained.”⁸

The Rye Department of Public Works' (DPW) fleet is partially run on diesel fuel and capable of utilizing biodiesel without further modifications. Since 2005, Rye’s DPW diesel consumption has increased 26.8%, while the use of gasoline has decreased 14.8%. One company, Hudson Bio Fuel, has estimated that 3,760 of waste oil is produced by Rye City restaurants and clubs.

Pasadena, California, Portland, Oregon, Denver, Colorado: Lake Forest Illinois are among a multitude of cities across the United States that are using biodiesel in their DPW fleets.

Living on Long Island Sound we have extremely important environmental concerns regarding our waste management, particularly, “the proper disposal of used cooking oil. Oil is lighter than water and tends to spread into thin and broad membranes that hinder the oxygenation of water. Because of this, a single gallon of oil can contaminate as much as one million gallons of water.”⁹

⁸ National Biodiesel Board [Need reference]

⁹ Hudson Biofuel

2. Organic Waste Disposal

“States have begun to ban food waste from going to landfills or other mixed municipal waste disposal facilities. The bans will prohibit hospitals, correctional facilities, schools, hotels, restaurants, and all other businesses that generate more than one ton of food waste per week from sending food waste for disposal at landfills. Long distance hauling to composting facilities will prove to be a nuisance to store and costly to haul.”¹⁰

Although it is not yet mandatory in Westchester - a densely populated, highly developed county - it is only a matter of time before this will become an issue. So how to reduce food waste?

One company, BioHi Tech, has developed a HiVolume Organic Waste Decomposition system: The Eco-Safe Digester. The Eco-Safe Digester will safely and quickly decompose virtually all organic food waste including: meat, poultry, fish, fruit, vegetables, rice, pasta, bread, coffee grinds, eggshells, and dairy products. A highly refined formula of microorganisms is used to breakdown organic waste into a liquid, which can be safely disposed down the drain, completely eliminating the waste, and ultimately allowing the effluent to return to our ecosystem. In a restaurant, the dishwasher simply wipes leftovers off the plate into the Digester rather than into a garbage bag. There are a multitude of economical and environmental benefits:

- Reduces Waste Transportation Costs by Reducing Number of Pick Ups
- Lowers Emissions from Less Truck Traffic and Land-filling
- Diverts Organic Waste from Landfills
- Extends the Lifespan of the County’s Disposal Facilities
- Recycles Food Waste into a Reusable Resource (water, energy and fertilizer)
- Reduces Janitorial Supply Costs
- Measures Environmental Performance
- Shrinks Environmental Footprint
- Improves Efficiency and Workflow
- Eliminates Compactor Odors
- Creates a Safer Environment for Employee

Area clubs and schools that are intent on being ahead of the curve, are implementing or considering this system.

¹⁰ Bio HiTech
Rye Sustainability Plan





CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 6

DEPT.: City Council

DATE: January 23, 2013

CONTACT: Mayor Douglas French

ACTION: Appointments to Boards and Commissions, by the Mayor with Council approval.

FOR THE MEETING OF:

January 23, 2013

RYE CITY CODE,

CHAPTER

SECTION

RECOMMENDATION: that the City Council approve the appointments.

IMPACT: Environmental Fiscal Neighborhood Other:

BACKGROUND:

- A) One appointment to the Board of Architectural Review for a three-year term.
- B) One appointment to the Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee for a three-year term.

See attached.

Board of Architectural Review

Seven members (Local Law #2-2006 increased number of members from 5 to 7- CC Mtg 02-01-2006) appointed by the Mayor with Council approval for 3-year terms. Chairman designated by the Mayor.

<u>Current Committee Members</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
Carmen Aguilar, Chair	1-1-15
John Clark	1-1-14
Roberta Downing	1-1-13
William Fegan	1-1-14
R. Jovanovich	1-1-14
Louis Rollano	1-1-14
Mark Schindler	1-1-13

Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee

The Committee shall consist of not less than seven 7 nor more than 9 members appointed by the Mayor with Council approval for three-year term, pursuant to Local Law No. 2-1998 adopted at the February 4, 1998 City Council Meeting and filed with the Department of State on February 9, 1998. Chairman designated by the Mayor. Name changed from Traffic and Transportation Committee to Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee and expansion of members from nine to eleven (Local Law 02-10, CC Mtg. 2-24-10)

<u>Current Committee Members</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
Brian Dempsey, Chairman	1-1-16
Denver Boston	1-1-16
James Burke	1-1-14
Steven Cadenhead	1-1-16
Maureen Gomez	1-1-16
Nicholas D. Loddo, Jr.	1-1-15
Steven Secon	1-1-16
Ben Stacks	1-1-14
Al Vitiello	1-1-15
VACANCY	
VACANCY	



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 7

DEPT.: City Council

DATE: January 23, 2013

CONTACT: Mayor Douglas French

AGENDA ITEM: Adjustment to City Council Liaison designations by the Mayor.

FOR THE MEETING OF:

January 23, 2013

RYE CITY CODE,

CHAPTER

SECTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve the appointments as presented by the Mayor.

IMPACT: Environmental Fiscal Neighborhood Other:

BACKGROUND: Designation of the City Council Liaisons by the Mayor for the following Boards and Committees:

Boat Basin Commission - Councilman Joseph Sack
Rye Town Park - Councilwoman Laura Brett



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 8

DEPT: Police Department

January 23, 2013

CONTACT: William R. Connors, Police Commissioner

ACTION: Consideration of Bid for the Police contract for uniforms (Contract #1-13).

FOR THE MEETING OF:

January 23, 2013

RYE CITY CODE,

CHAPTER

SECTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council reject the bids and approve the request to go out to re-bid the contract for Police Uniforms (Contract #1-13).

IMPACT: Environmental Fiscal Neighborhood Other:

BACKGROUND: The bid opening for Contract #1-13 took place on January 9, 2013. Two bids were submitted but neither bid meets the product warranty requirement as outlined in the City bid specifications. Due to this, Police Commissioner William R. Connors recommends that the City Council reject the bids and re-bid the contract.

See attached.



William R. Connors
Police Commissioner

POLICE DEPARTMENT

City of Rye, New York

21 McCullough Place

Rye, N. Y. 10580

Phone: (914) 967-1234

FAX: (914) 967-8341



January 18, 2013

Memorandum for: Scott D. Pickup, City Manager

Subject: **RECCOMENDATION TO REJECT BID #01-13**

Two bids have been submitted for the supply of uniforms and related equipment pursuant to Bid #01-13.

The language of the bid specifications requires that vendors warranty uniform shirts. Two brands are used by the Department, Blauer and Conqueror, at the officers' option. One vendor, New England Sportswear of White Plains, New York, is able to warranty Conqueror, but not Blauer products; the second vendor, New England Uniform of Danbury, Connecticut, is able to warranty Blauer, but not Conqueror products.

Since neither bidder is capable of meeting the bid specifications I recommend rejection of both bids at this time and that authorization be granted to re-bid.

Submitted for your consideration.

WRC/wrc

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William R. Connors".

William R. Connors
Police Commissioner



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 10

DEPT.: Police

DATE: January 23, 2013

CONTACT: Commissioner William R. Connors

AGENDA ITEM: Acceptance of Grant Award from Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in the amount of \$3,500 for participation in the "Selective Traffic Enforcement" (STEP) program.

FOR THE MEETING OF:

January 23, 2013

RYE CITY CODE,

CHAPTER

SECTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Manger be authorized to accept the Grant Award from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in the amount of \$3,500.

IMPACT: Environmental Fiscal Neighborhood Other:

BACKGROUND: The City of Rye Police Department has been awarded a grant of \$3,500 from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to participate in the "Selective Traffic Enforcement" (STEP) program. The goal of the program is to reduce the rate of preventable traffic accidents and fatalities in Westchester County by increasing public awareness through traffic safety enforcement.

See attached.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

City of Rye, New York

21 McCullough Place

Rye, N. Y. 10580

Phone: (914) 967-1234

FAX: (914) 967-8341



William R. Connors
Police Commissioner

January 10, 2013

Memorandum for: Scott D. Pickup, City Manager

Subject: **FY 2013 STEP (SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM) GRANT**

I am pleased to report that the City of Rye Police Department has been awarded a grant of \$3,500 by the Governor's Traffic Safety Council to participate in the statewide "Selective Traffic Safety Program" (STEP). The program's goal is to reduce crashes, fatalities and injuries by targeting aggressive/unsafe driving, including speeding, red light and stop sign violations, unsafe lane changes, following too closely, failing to yield, and other violations related to aggressive driving. In past years, this funding has allowed the Department to conduct such projects as speed enforcement initiatives and to enhance enforcement in school zones at the beginning of the school year. The program is administered by the Westchester County Traffic Safety Board.

A copy of the grant award letter is attached for your information. The grant is subject to a five-year Inter-Municipal Agreements that was previously executed, so a new agreement is not required; the County will require a current Certificate of Insurance.

William R. Connors
Police Commissioner

WRC/wrc

cc: Joseph Fazzino, Interim Comptroller
Thomas Scappaticci, Accountant



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Public Works and Transportation

Jay T. Pisco, P.E.
Commissioner

January 3, 2013

*****FY 2013 STEP Grant (Selective Traffic Enforcement Program)*****

Dear Chief of Rye Police Department:

We are pleased to inform you of the approval of the FY 2013 STEP Grant (Selective Traffic Enforcement Program) by the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC). As you know, Westchester County Traffic Safety administers this grant program.

For the period 10/1/12 to 9/30/13, your police department is authorized to spend the following amount \$ 3,500.00 for increased traffic safety enforcement. Please pass on this information to your grants coordinator. The GTSC's funding is based on a formula using criteria such as previous performance and crash rates. As a result, police departments have been awarded different amounts.

The five-year Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) was already processed by your municipality to participate in this program so it will not be necessary to process the IMA this year. However, your agency is required to submit a current Certificate of Insurance stating that the County of Westchester is the Additional Insured for the 2013 STEP Grant. Please forward this document to our office as soon as possible.

Please forward your reimbursement forms immediately after enforcement details take place. The current STEP reporting forms will continue to be used, such as, county payment vouchers for payroll reimbursement listing the number of violations and hours worked with hourly rates, county reporting forms listing types and numbers of summonses, and your signed payroll sheets listing hourly rates for each officer as a back-up attachment. Forward the completed forms to Westchester County Traffic Safety, 148 Martine Avenue, Suite 400B, White Plains, NY 10601. In addition, semi-annual reporting forms are required in April and October 2013. These forms will be emailed to you prior to April.

The goal of the STEP Program is to reduce crashes, fatalities and injuries in the county by targeting speeding and aggressive/unsafe driving. The funds may also be used to promote Operation Safe Stop, the school bus enforcement campaign. Please make every effort to schedule STEP enforcement details throughout the year.

We commend you and your department for past commitments to traffic safety enforcement. Let's all work together to ensure the success of the 2013 STEP Program. If we can be of any assistance with the implementation of this program, please do not hesitate to contact the Traffic Safety Office.

Sincerely,

Barbara Peters-DeMeo
Project Director
Westchester County
Department of Public Works and Transportation/Traffic Safety

Administration Engineering 148 Martine Avenue White Plains, NY 10601 westchestergov.com/dpw	Fleet/Garage Operations 38 Brockway Place White Plains, NY 10604 Tel: (914) 995-4961 Fax: (914) 995-3709	Road Maintenance 198 Lake Street White Plains, NY 10604 Tel: (914) 995-4951 Fax: (914) 995-6233	Valhalla Operations Operations Building Valhalla, NY 10595 Tel: (914) 231-1294 Fax: (914) 231-1164	White Plains Operations 148 Martine Avenue White Plains, NY 10601 Tel: (914) 995-4156 Fax: (914) 995-6146
---	--	---	--	---



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 11

DEPT.: Police Department

DATE: January 23, 2013

CONTACT: William R. Connors, Police Commissioner

AGENDA ITEM: Acceptance of donation to the Rye Police Department from the Zegarowicz family in the amount of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars.

FOR THE MEETING OF:

January 23, 2013

RYE CITY CODE,

CHAPTER

SECTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, the Zegarowicz family desires to donate one hundred (\$100.00) dollars to the Rye Police Department; and

Whereas, the fiscal 2013 General Fund budget did not anticipate this donation; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the City Council of the City of Rye accepts the aforementioned donation; and be it further

Resolved that the City Comptroller is authorized to amend the fiscal 2013 General Fund budget as follows:

Increase Deferred Revenues - Police Donations \$100.00

IMPACT: Environmental Fiscal Neighborhood Other:

BACKGROUND:

The Zegarowicz family, by letter dated December 31, 2012, advised the Police Department that they would like to make a contribution of \$100. The Police Commissioner recommends acceptance of this donation.



William R. Connors
Police Commissioner

POLICE DEPARTMENT

City of Rye, New York
21 McCullough Place
Rye, N. Y. 10580
Phone: (914) 967-1234
FAX: (914) 967-8341



January 16, 2013

Memorandum for: Scott D. Pickup, City Manager

Subject: **DONATION TO RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT – ZEGAROWICZ FAMILY**

Attached is a check for one hundred dollars (\$100.00) from the Zegarowicz Family of 8 Old Post Road, Rye, New York 10580, to the Rye Police Department.

I recommend acceptance of this donation and deposit into the Police Donation Fund.

A copy of a letter of appreciation I have forwarded to Ms. Josephine Zegarowicz is attached.

Submitted for your consideration.

WRC/wrc
Att.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William R. Connors".

William R. Connors
Police Commissioner



William R. Connors
Police Commissioner

POLICE DEPARTMENT

City Of Rye, New York
21 McCullough Place
Rye, N. Y. 10580
Phone: (914) 967-1234
FAX: (914) 967-8341



January 16, 2013

Ms. Josephine Zegarowicz
8 Old Post Road
Rye, New York 10580

Dear Ms. Zegarowicz:

Thank you for your donation of a check for one hundred dollars to the Rye Police Department.

Your kind contribution has been forwarded to the City Manager's Office for formal acceptance by the City. Upon acceptance, it will be deposited into a designated account maintained by the City of Rye, which is utilized for the purchase of equipment.

I am privileged to lead an outstanding group of police officers who show their dedication to the citizens of Rye on a daily basis. Thank you for your expression of appreciation for their work. Please accept our best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William R. Connors".

William R. Connors
Police Commissioner