

Climate Smart Communities Certification Report



This is the Climate Smart Communities Certification Report of Beacon, City (Dutchess). Beacon, City (Dutchess) is a bronze certified Climate Smart Community.

Beacon, City (Dutchess) was certified on March 12, 2020 with 270 points earned from 34 completed actions. Listed below is information regarding Beacon, City (Dutchess)'s Climate Smart Communities efforts and materials associated with its certified actions.

The certification for Beacon, City (Dutchess) will expire on September 30, 2025.

Contact Information

The designated Climate Smart Communities contact for Beacon, City (Dutchess) is:

| | |
|----------|--|
| Name: | CHRS WHITE |
| Title: | CITY ADMINISTRATOR |
| Address: | 1 MUNICIPAL CENTER BEACON, NY 12508 |

Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Beacon, City (Dutchess) was approved for in 2020 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

1. Build a climate-smart community.

1.1 Pass a Resolution Adopting the CSC Pledge

4 Points


Program Summary: No description was provided.

PDF: [CSC PLEDGE](#)

PDF: [RESOLUTION_BEACONCITY.PDF](#)

PE1 Action: CSC Task Force

20 Points

 Bronze Mandatory

Program Summary: The City's Conservation Advisory Committee is serving as the Climate Smart Taskforce. Here is the resolution appointing them and a screenshot of the website with information about the committee and the members. <http://www.cityofbeacon.org/Government/cac.htm> Minutes from the latest meetings are attached.

IMAGE: [CAC WEBSITE SCREENSHOT](#)

WORD: [CSTF/CAC MINUTES NOVEMBER 2019](#)


WORD: [CSTF/CAC MINUTES OCTOBER 2019](#)

PDF: [2019-084 RESOLUTIONS COUNCIL.PDF](#)

WORD: [CSTF/CAC MINUTES SEPTEMBER 2019](#)

PE1 Action: CSC Coordinator

10 Points

 Bronze Mandatory

Program Summary: City of Beacon resolution authorizing the city to enter into a contract with Climate Smart Coordinator and the job description.

PDF: [2019-124 RESOLUTIONS COUNCIL.PDF](#)

PDF: [JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

PE1 Action: National/Regional Climate Program

3 Points


Program Summary: Map of Clean Energy Communities showing that Beacon is a Designated CEC (<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/CEC-Map>).

IMAGE: [BEACON CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY MAP](#)

2. Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.

PE2 Action: Government Operations GHG Inventory

16 Points



 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Beacon has completed government operations GHG inventories for 2012 and 2018. These inventories are in the attached document. The inventories are available on the City's Website: <https://www.cityofbeacon.org/index.php/departments/sustainability/>

PDF: [GHG INVENTORY](#)

PE2 Action: Community GHG Inventory

16 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Beacon completed Community GHG inventories for 2016 and 2018. Both inventories are in the attached document. It is available on the City's website: <https://www.cityofbeacon.org/index.php/departments/sustainability/>

PDF: [GHG INVENTORY](#)

3. Decrease energy use.

PE3 Action: Government Building Energy Audits

16 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Wendel Energy conducted a comprehensive energy audit of 8 of Beacon's buildings in 2011. This represents 92K sq feet, most of Beacon's buildings, including our Municipal Center, all three fire houses, the memorial VFW building, and the water treatment plant and water well sites. The only major building not included in the audit are the highway garage and the transfer station (as well as some buildings like the salt shed and yard fixtures.)

PDF: [COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY AUDIT](#)

PE3 Action: Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings

2 Points

Program Summary: Adopted Resolution on May 15, 2017.

PDF: [2017-057 RESOLUTIONS COUNCIL.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [CEC MAP](#)

PE3 Action: LED Street Lights

10 Points

Program Summary: The City hired Wendell Energy to assist in purchasing all (100%) of our 1450 street lights and converting them to LED. The details are attached in documentation, including a spreadsheet of all streetlights with type and installation, flex tech study from NYSERDA detailing the changes, and the NYSERDA high impact action email. NEED CEN HUD BILL.

PDF: [NYSERDA EMAIL CONFIRMING LED HIGH IMPACT ACTION](#)

EXCEL: [STREETLIGHT SPREADSHEET](#)

PDF: [FLEXTech STUDY](#)

4. Shift to clean, renewable energy.

PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies

3 Points

Program Summary: Central Hudson completed a CESIR study before approving the solar farm at Dennings Point Landfill. The study is attached here.

PDF: [CESIR STUDY](#)

PE4 Action: Solar Energy Installation

9 Points

Program Summary: The City has a PV Solar array on top of our Municipal Center, installed by Hudson Valley Clean Energy (now Suncommon). The PV Meter documentation photo and installation photo were taken in late 2019 and show that the array is still operational.

IMAGE: [PHOTO OF EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE AT CITY HALL](#)

PDF: [SITEMAP OF SOLAR](#)

PDF: [UTILITY APPROVAL](#)

IMAGE: [PV METER](#)

IMAGE: [PHOTO OF INSTALLATION](#)

PE4 Action: Power Purchase Agreement for Renewables

9 Points

Program Summary: The city entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with BQ Energy on the old Dennings Point Landfill in 2018. The documents here include the PPA contract, Lifetime production of solar field graph, and drone photograph of solar field.

PDF: [POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT](#)

IMAGE: [LIFETIME SOLAR FIELD PRODUCTION](#)

IMAGE: [DRONE PHOTOGRAPH OF SOLAR FIELD](#)

5. Use climate-smart materials management.

PE5 Action: Residential Organic Waste Program

6 Points


Program Summary: The city has yard waste pick up and drop off. The documentation is a description of the program and a link to the website for residents. <http://www.cityofbeacon.org/index.php/departments/transfer-station/> and <http://www.cityofbeacon.org/index.php/departments/highway/>

WORD: [DESCRIPTION OF YARD WASTE PROGRAM](#)

6. Implement climate-smart land use.

PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements

18 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Attached is a memo detailing how the City of Beacon's comprehensive plan update in 2017 meets the requirements and tiers for additional points. We have also attached the minutes from the meeting whether the plan update was approved, the resolution approving it, and the plan itself.

PDF: [CITY OF BEACON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2017](#)

WORD: [COMP PLAN MEMO BEACON](#)

PDF: [RESOLUTION OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN](#)

PDF: [MINUTES OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN](#)

PE6 Action: Smart Growth Policies

8 Points

Program Summary: City of Beacon zoning code: <https://ecode360.com/7066171> Description attached.

WORD: [DESCRIPTION OF SMART GROWTH ZONING](#)

PE6 Action: Complete Streets Policy

4 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The City adopted a Complete Streets Resolution and Policy.

PDF: [2016-149 RESOLUTIONS COUNCIL.PDF](#)

PE6 Action: Infrastructure for Biking and Walking

3 Points

Program Summary: The city installed new sidewalks along the east end of Main Street in the summer of 2019. The details are attached in a payment form and the photos are attached. Also, in 2013, the city received a \$500K+ grant for Safe Routes to School by NY DOT for pedestrian improvements and safety education at the J.V. Forrestal Elementary School. <https://www.dot.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2013/2013-01-14>

PDF: [MAIN ST. CONSTRUCTION ORDER, SUMMER 2019](#)


IMAGE: [PHOTO 1](#)

IMAGE: [PHOTO 2](#)

IMAGE: [PHOTO 3](#)

PE6 Action: Alternative-fuel Infrastructure

6 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The city has installed one Level-2 charging station at the Visitors Center for public use. Attached is our submitted clean fleets NYSEDA high impact action documentation along with a screenshot from charge point showing the station is available. Here is a link to a local blog's post about the station: <https://www.alittlebeaconblog.com/blog/car-charging-station-activated-13-South-avenue?rq=charging> Another level -2 station will be coming online shortly behind City Hall.

EXCEL: [CLEAN FLEETS SPREADSHEET](#)

PDF: [CLEAN FLEETS CERTIFICATION](#)

WORD: [CHARGEPOINT SCREENSHOT](#)

IMAGE: [NYSEDA MAP](#)

PE6 Action: Access to Public Transit

5 Points

Program Summary: The City works with the County to have the Beacon Free Loop Bus, which runs Monday through Saturday providing incentives for the public to use alternatives to private vehicles to get around town (1 pt). This bus also stops at the train station, providing transit connections (3 pts). Documentation here includes the resolution approving this bus and the contract with the county (1 pt), as well as the schedule of the bus.

PDF: [2018 FREE BUS SCHEDULE](#)

PDF: [LOOP BUS RESOLUTIONS](#)

PDF: [CHANGE ORDER WITH DUTCHESS COUNTY FOR FREE BUS](#)

PE6 Action: Local Forestry Program

4 Points

Program Summary: Beacon is a TREE CITY USA city. Screenshot of Tree City website as documentation. We also completed a tree inventory in 2013 with USDA funding. That is also attached as documentation.

IMAGE: [BEACON'S TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION](#)

PDF: [STREET TREE INVENTORY](#)

PE6 Action: Zoning for Protection of Natural Areas



6 Points

Program Summary: The City has preserved natural areas through zoning by adopting the Fishkill Creek Development District: <https://ecode360.com/15154780>. This is based off the Fishkill Creek & Greenway Trail Master Plan: http://www.cityofbeacon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Fishkill_Creek_Greenway_Heritage_Trail_Master_Plan_Combined.pdf and also included in the City's NRI.

7. Enhance community resilience to climate change.

PE7 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment

16 Points



 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The City participated with the Town of Fishkill in a day long Community Resilience Building Workshop put on by the Nature Conservancy and Cornell Cooperative. The summary of findings document is attached. It details multiple vulnerabilities (6pts) including the top hazards of: sea level rise and storm surge, inland flooding, and drought and wildfires. It also details strengths as well as future projections and details recommendations. The City's LWRP http://www.cityofbeacon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Beacon_Final_LWRP_2012.pdf focuses on the danger from flooding (4pts) on pgs 9-10, and 36 in section 1, and starting on p. 10 in section 3, plus starting on page 3 in section 5.

PDF: [COMMUNITY RESILIENCE SUMMARY OF FINDINGS](#)

PE7 Action: Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience

6 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Beacon completed Climate Smart Resiliency Planning with Cornell Cooperative Extension in 2018. Please find the completed tool and recommendations attached here.

PDF: [CLIMATE RESILIENCY PLANNING TOOL](#)

PDF: [CLIMATE RESILIENCY PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS](#)

8. Support a green innovation economy.

PE8 Action: Farmers' Markets

3 Points

Program Summary: Beacon has had a Farmers Market for many years. Attached as confirmation is a resolution Approving the Farmers Market continuing in 2019. The Farmers Market is active year round most Sundays. In the summer it is open 10-3 and in the winter it is open 10-2. It is in municipal plaza in the summer months and the VFW hall in the winter months. <http://www.beaconfarmersmarket.org/> provides documentation of this, as does their instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/beaconfarmersmarket/>

PDF: [FARMERS MARKET RESOLUTION.PDF](#)

PE8 Action: Brownfield Clean-up & Redevelopment

5 Points

Program Summary: 1 pt for a comprehensive plan that prioritizes brownfield redevelopment. E.g., see page 39 of Beacon's 2017 Comp Plan. 2 pts for cleaning up a brownfield site. Scenic Hudson has developed Beacon's Long Dock Park, which was a brownfield. See attached for the NYS DEC Brownfield Cleanup Program Certificate of Completion for Scenic Hudson Land Trust at Long Dock Beacon Park at the Beacon Waterfront. (There is a Remedial Action Work Plan available upon request, but it did not fit in the portal due to its size.) 2 pts for green redevelopment at the Long Dock site. Scenic Hudson is a green business and they built a LEED and SITES certified building on the property. <https://www.scenichudson.org/explore-the-valley/scenic-hudson-parks/scenic-hudsons-long-dock-park/>

PDF: [CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION - LONG DOCK](#)

PDF: [CITY OF BEACON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2017](#)

PDF: [LDB-FINAL_REPORT.PDF](#)

PDF: [SITES CERTIFICATION](#)

PE8 Action: PACE Financing

7 Points

Program Summary: Map of Energize NY status and the resolution approving it. Beacon is active.

IMAGE: [ENERGIZE NY MAP](#)

PDF: [ENERGIZE RESOLUTION](#)

IMAGE: [EIC WEBPAGE SCREENSHOT](#)

PE8 Action: Community Choice Aggregation

18 Points

Program Summary: Beacon has a CCA with Joule Assets/HV Community Power: <https://www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com/about>. We have approx. 15K residents, making us eligible for 18 points. Attached is approval from NYSERDA for the CCA as a high impact action as well as confirmation of our population size. .

PDF: [POPULATION CONFIRMATION FROM CENSUS, ESTIMATE 2018](#)

PDF: [CCA NYSERDA CONFIRMATION](#)

PE8 Action: Rooftop Solarize Campaign

5 Points

Program Summary: Email confirming Clean Energy Community high impact points for solarize program

PDF: [SOLARIZE NYSERDA EMAIL](#)

9. Inform and inspire the public.

PE9 Action: Climate-related Public Events

3 Points

Program Summary: On July 23, 2019, The City of Beacon held a sustainability forum with municipal leaders. <https://www.facebook.com/beaconny/photos/a.659372707413530/2899987746685337/?type=3&theater>

PE9 Action: Local Climate Action Website

3 Points

Program Summary: Beacon has a sustainability webpage: <https://www.cityofbeacon.org/index.php/departments/sustainability/> It contains information about our efforts related to local climate change mitigation and adaptation, gives information about how local residents and businesses can participate in those efforts, and contains a summary of actions that residents and businesses in the community can take to reduce their GHG emissions. It was added to the City website in 2020.

PE9 Action: Social Media

3 Points

Program Summary: Attached is a PDF with the City of Beacon's facebook page link and screenshots of posts that have been used to educate the public about sustainability issues.

PDF: [CITY OF BEACON SOCIAL MEDIA AND SUSTAINABILITY](#)

10. Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

PE10 Action: GHG Tracking System

5 Points

Program Summary: Beacon utilizes the Clearpath tool by ICLEI, as an ICLEI member, to track our GHG emissions. 2 screenshots (of 1 webpage) are attached here showing that Beacon has inputted information for 2018 to determine GHG emissions. This is also shown via our GHG inventory. The city is making changes to city processes to make our next GHG inventory easier based on undertaking the GHG inventories of 2012 and 2018.

IMAGE: [SCREENSHOT 2](#)

IMAGE: [SCREENSHOT 1](#)

11. Innovation

Innovation: New Innovative Actions

3 Points

Program Summary: There was a climate justice assessment completed for the City of Beacon in 2012 with funding support from EPA. This was completed by Hudson Clearwater and the Beacon Climate Justice Council, with support from the city government. Climate resilience at the local level is stronger when communities are inclusive and equitable and when there is greater social cohesion (3 pts). Please find it linked here: <https://www.clearwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Final-Beacon-EJ-and-CJ-Report.pdf>

12. Performance

Performance: Reduce GHGs from Government Facilities

15 Points

Program Summary: Between 2012 and 2018 the City of Beacon converted traffic lights and signals to LEDs to save energy. The city also installed a solar farm on a decommissioned landfill via a Power Purchase Agreement. As noted in the GHG inventory, government GHG emissions decreased from 2012 to 2018. The city is eligible for 15 points for meeting a 10-14% reduction in GHG emissions from government facilities.

EXCEL: [2019 BEACON SUNLIGHT PRODUCTION](#)

PDF: [GHG INVENTORY](#)