



PE8 Action: Farmers' Markets

3 Points

A. Why is this action important?

Support of local food production is an important piece of building a local green economy. Not only have farmers' markets become increasingly popular among consumers, they support local farmers while reducing the overall environmental footprint of food consumed within a community. Farmers' markets provide a venue in which local farmers can sell their products, connect to consumers, and establish brand recognition for their products sold in other retail venues. Farmers' markets are typically active during the growing and harvesting seasons, but winter farmers' markets have become increasingly popular as well.

B. How to implement this action

If a farmers' market does not already exist in the community, local governments are encouraged to collaborate with local community organizations, such as a chamber of commerce or business improvement district, to form and organize a farmers' market.

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

The time frame to create a local farmers' market depends on the opportunities to collaborate with community-based organizations and the available resources in those organizations to assist in the creation of the market.

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

This is applicable to any local government. Farmers need not be from within the same community, but should be within the same region to keep sources as local as possible. Departments likely to be involved with supporting farmers' markets include environment, public works, parks and recreation, agriculture, and health. This initiative can greatly benefit from the support of a local chamber of commerce and local non-profits.

E. How to obtain points for this action

To earn points for this Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action, the local government must run a farmers' market or demonstrate support of the markets through financial support, making local government property available for the market, or offering other operational resources, such as waste management, safety assistance, staffing, etc. Many communities now establish systems to ensure that food stamps are accepted at local farmers' markets to ensure equitable access.

F. What to submit

Provide documentation of operation of at least one farmers' market for a minimum of 10 days per year. Show that the market was active within the year prior to the application date (e.g., through fliers or other outreach materials that include the date).

Submit an explanation of how your local government organized or provided support to the market. If there are other partners involved, see the CSC webpage about [Collaborating with Partners](#) for guidance on demonstrating substantial involvement.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- [New York State Department of Agriculture Farmers Market Mini-Grants](#)
- [Farmers Market Federation of New York](#)
- [Farmers Market Coalition](#)
- [Rutgers University Food Innovation Center](#)
- [DOH Public Health Live Webcast: Climate Smart Communities: Supporting Farmer's Markets](#)

H. Recertification requirements

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.