

## PE9 Action: Climate-related Public Events

3 Points

### A. Why is this action important?

Local governments cannot achieve energy and climate goals without the participation of an informed populace. The residential and commercial sectors are two large sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is important to educate residents and business owners on energy and water conservation, waste and vehicle miles traveled reductions, and other issues related to climate action. Educating the public will increase awareness of the benefits of individual action, and will help to further the community's climate action goals. This Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action offers a way for local governments to get experience with community education without developing a full engagement strategy, as is required for [PE9 Action: Climate Change Education and Engagement](#).

### B. How to implement this action

Local governments should collaborate with groups such as local nonprofits, academic institutions, trade associations, or companies to deliver educational seminars, workshops, conferences, fairs, or sessions at such events, to engage the public in the local government's clean energy and climate efforts. Consider which existing (or new) workshops, conferences, fairs, and events the local government may expand to address topics such as the following:

- Energy efficient appliances for residential and commercial buildings
- Onsite renewable energy production
- Weatherization of a residential building
- Creating a recycling and composting system at home or the office
- Safe bike commute in all seasons and bike safety
- Reducing water use in the home and office
- Adapting to increased health risks related to climate change

Local governments should endeavor to reduce waste and energy use to the greatest extent possible for these events and provide recycling at the events.

Local governments are eligible for points under this CSC action by hosting a single event, or series of events related to climate change mitigation (reduction of GHG emissions) and/or climate change adaptation. The event must have been held within one year of prior to the application date. Types of events could include seminars, workshops, conferences, summits, or fairs. Local governments are eligible for points if they are the lead organizer or a supporting participant in an event organized by a partner organization. Support for a partner organization could be in form of donating the use of a local government facility, covering some of the costs of the event, serving on an advisory committee, speaking at the event, and/or using staff time to prepare for or facilitate the event(s).

### C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

This action may be implemented as a single-day event or may take place over the course of a year. Project costs may include staff time, volunteer time, marketing materials, booth and registration fees, honoraria for speakers, and food and beverages for the audience. Information-technology resources may be required to implement this action.

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

This action is applicable to any local government. It may be organized by a variety of departments, councils, or committees, such as the CSC task force, planning department, department of public works or recycling division, a sustainability committee, or an environmental committee.

#### **E. How to obtain points for this action**

Three points are available for local governments that host or facilitate at least one community event in the last year that was related to climate change and was consistent with the guidelines above.

#### **F. What to submit**

Submit documentation that includes the topic, date, time, location, subject, and partners for at least one event held within the past year that was related to climate change. Documentation may include the agenda, attendee sign-in sheets, photographs of the event, website post, and/or educational materials distributed at the event. Applicants must provide information on the role played by the local government.

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**

- [Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, Education Materials & Activities](#)
- [Sustainable Communities Online, How to Plan a Sustainable Event](#)
- [Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit](#)
- [NOAA State Climate Summary for New York](#)
- [FEMA Long-Term Community Resilience Exercise Resource Guide - Designing Whole Community Exercises to Prepare for the Effects of a Changing Climate](#)

#### **H. Recertification requirements**

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