



## PE3 Action: Clean Energy Upgrades

10 Points

### A. Why is this action important?

In this context, Clean Energy Upgrades are defined as energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in local government facilities. Facilities are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in government operations inventories. Integrating energy efficiency and renewable energy into government facilities can reduce GHG emissions and save taxpayer money. State programs can help get these projects accomplished with no or low up-front cost.

In addition, when local governments make measurable reductions in GHG emissions that are directly under their control, they demonstrate leadership and take responsibility for the emissions that cause climate change. The cumulative impact of many local governments across New York State achieving GHG reductions adds up to a significant statement that can inspire further action in other sectors of the economy.

### B. How to implement this action

This Climate Smart Communities (CSC) certification action offers points for the successful completion of the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities high-impact action called Clean Energy Upgrades.

This action focuses on reducing GHG emissions from facilities that are owned by local governments. Local governments must reduce GHG emissions from their facilities by at least 10 percent over a period of one to three years, submit the required documentation, and receive approval from NYSERDA to be awarded CSC points for this action.

Government buildings and facilities may include municipal office buildings, public works facilities, fire stations, police precincts, parks facilities, and water treatment plants. While GHG emissions from roadway lighting owned by the local government are not covered in this action (such as street lights and traffic signals), interior lighting and any exterior lighting directly associated with government buildings are included.

For guidance on implementing this action, see the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Clean Energy Upgrades Toolkit, which is available at [www.nyserdera.ny.gov/cec](http://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/cec). Municipalities interested in this action can receive free technical assistance from the Clean Energy Communities Coordinators; contact [cec@nyserdera.ny.gov](mailto:cec@nyserdera.ny.gov) for more information.

### C. Timeframe, project costs, and resource needs

The time frame, costs, and resource needs depend on the type of upgrades implemented. Project costs may include design and construction, as well as staff and consultant time, where applicable.

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

This action is applicable to all types of local governments. The department with responsibility for managing government-owned facilities (typically the department of public works) would probably be involved in implementing this action. Staff members that maintain the government's GHG emissions inventories would likely be responsible for doing the calculations for this action.

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

Ten CSC points are available for local governments that submit documentation from NYSERDA showing completion of this action.

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

Submit a dated copy of the approval from NYSERDA that indicates completion of the Clean Energy Communities Clean Energy Upgrades high-impact action.

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 examples**

- [NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities](#)

#### **H. Recertification Requirements**

To maintain status as a certified Climate Smart Community, recertification is necessary every five years. For this particular action, however, CSC points will only be awarded once, to align with the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program.