

**PE6 Action: Local Forestry Program****1 – 10  
Points****A. Why is this action important?**

Preserving the tree canopy in our cities, towns, and communities provides a number of environmental and economic benefits in our communities, including reducing energy use, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, improving air quality, reducing stormwater runoff and creating a sense of place in urban and suburban areas. The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program encourages local governments to play a major role in planting and protecting trees in their communities.

**B. How to implement this action**

A local forestry program can take a number of forms, but should include development of a baseline assessment to focus on the most strategic measures to maintain or expand the local forest and implementation of strategies that work to protect the urban or rural forest. The following strategies can be implemented to build a local forestry or tree planting program:

- Conduct a tree inventory (including street tree inventories).
- Enact a [tree preservation ordinance](#).
- Implement a large-scale tree planting project.
- Participate in one of the state's forest stewardship programs and/or the [state's urban and community forestry programs](#).
- Participate in [Tree City USA](#).

To be eligible for points for this action, local governments are not required to incorporate these policies/strategies into their zoning or comprehensive plan; however, they are encouraged to do so to reduce the risk of legal challenges.

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

Creating an urban forestry program or participating in a forest stewardship program will require staff time or coordination with local government staff to collect baseline data and develop maps of the existing tree canopy. If the local government would like to enact a tree preservation ordinance, a local government attorney should be consulted. Access to GIS or the U.S. Forest Service's iTree Program is important for effective planning.

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

This action is relevant to any local government. The department or staff members responsible for parks, recreation, public works, or planning are typically responsible for these types of actions. Municipal committees, such as CSC task force, conservation advisory councils or environmental conservation committees may also be involved.

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

Implement one or more of the following strategies to achieve points for this action:

**POSSIBLE POINTS**

Conduct a tree inventory.	3
Enact a tree preservation ordinance.	2
Implement a large-scale tree planting project.	2
Participate in one of the state's forestry programs.	2
Participate in Tree City USA.	1

## F. What to submit

Submit the completed tree inventory, adopted tree preservation ordinance, documentation of a large-scale planting project, and/or documentation of participation in one of the state's forestry programs and/or in Tree City USA.

All strategies must have been completed within 10 years of the application date.

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

- [NYS DEC Forests and Climate Change](#)
- [NYS DEC Community Forest Conservation Grant Program](#)
- [NYS DEC Urban and Community Forestry](#)
- [NYS DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grants](#)
- [NYS DEC A Municipal Official's Guide to Forestry in New York State](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, iTree Tool for Assessing and Mapping Community Forests](#)
- [Tree City USA](#)
- [Reforestation Hub](#)
- [International Society of Arboriculture: Trees are Good](#)

## H. Recertification requirements

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