

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification Action Checklist - Version 4.2 (December 17, 2021)

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Please note: the information below is only an overview; it does not represent the most current description of the CSC certification actions. For full details and the most current information, please visit this webpage: https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/				
CEC: These actions are related to the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) high-impact actions. See this website for more info about CEC: https://www.nyscrda.ny.gov/cec				
Under Review: These italicized actions are currently unavailable; they are being revised by the CSC interagency team.				
CSC Grants: These actions may be fundable under the certification category of the DEC's CSC Grant Program. For details see this webpage: http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC				
Action Name (version 3)	Legacy Action #	Legacy Name(s)	Points	Type/Status
PE1: Build a climate-smart community.				
PE1 Action: CSC Task Force	1.2	Create a community Climate Smart Community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	20	Mandatory
PE1 Action: CSC Coordinator	1.3	Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator	10	Mandatory
PE1 Action: National/Regional Climate Program	1.5	Join a national or regional climate campaign or program	3	
PE1 Action: Partnerships with Other Entities	10.3	Cooperate with neighboring communities and partner agencies	3	
PE2: Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.				
PE2 Action: Government Operations GHG Inventory	2.1	Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory	16	Priority, CSC Grants
PE2 Action: Community GHG Inventory	2.2	Develop a community GHG emissions inventory	16	Priority, CSC Grants
PE2 Action: Government Operations Climate Action Plan	2.5	Develop a government operations climate action plan	12 - 16	Priority, CSC Grants
PE2 Action: Community Climate Action Plan	2.6	Develop a community climate action plan	16	Priority, CSC Grants
PE3: Decrease energy use.				
PE3 Action: Government Building Energy Audits	3.1	Conduct energy audits of local government buildings	8 - 16	Priority, Revised Q4 2021
PE3 Action: Interior Lighting Upgrades	3.2	Upgrade interior lighting	1 - 5	
PE3 Action: HVAC Upgrades	3.3	Upgrade HVAC equipment	1 - 5	
PE3 Action: Water-efficient Fixtures	3.4	Install water-efficient fixtures	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Building Energy Management System	3.5	Install a building energy management system (EMS)	1 - 5	
PE3 Action: Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings	3.32	Adopt an energy benchmarking requirement for government-owned buildings	2 - 4	CEC
PE3 Action: Clean Energy Upgrades	NA	NA (Released as part of version 3)	10	CEC
PE3 Action: Green Building Standard for Government Buildings	3.7	Adopt a green building standard for local government buildings and facilities	2 - 4	
PE3 Action: Green Building Certification	3.8	Build a new green building	15	
PE3 Action: Fleet Inventory	NA	NA (Released as part of version 3)	4	CSC Grants
PE3 Action: Fleet Efficiency Policy	3.10	Adopt a vehicle fleet efficiency policy	2 - 3	CSC Grants
PE3 Action: Fleet Rightsizing	3.11	Right-size the local government fleet	1 - 3	
PE3 Action: Advanced Vehicles	3.12	Replace traditional vehicles with advanced vehicles	2 - 10	CEC
PE3 Action: LED Street Lights	3.15	Convert streetlights to LED	4 - 12	CEC
PE3 Action: LED Traffic Signals	3.16	Convert traffic signals to LED	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Outdoor Lighting Reduction	3.17	Reduce number of outdoor lighting fixtures	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Outdoor Lighting Upgrades	3.18	Upgrade outdoor lighting (other than streetlights and traffic signals) to more efficient and/or solar technology	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy	3.24	Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Financing Mechanism for Government Energy Projects	3.25	Establish a financing mechanism for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in government owned buildings	5	
PE3 Action: Waste & Energy Provisions in Government Contracts	3.26	Incorporate energy efficiency and waste handling provisions in standard specifications and government contracts	1 - 3	
PE3 Action: Incentives for Employee Carpooling & Transit	3.28	Subsidize and incentivize employee alternative commuting	1 - 3	
PE3 Action: Energy Code Enforcement Training	NA	NA (Released as part of version 3)	5	CEC
PE4: Shift to clean, renewable energy.				
PE4 Action: Green Power Procurement Policy	4.1	Adopt a green power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewables	2 - 4	

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PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies	4.3	Conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy installations	3 - 5	
PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Certificates	4.4	Purchase renewable energy credits (RECs)	2 - 12	CEC, Revised Q4 2021
PE4 Action: Heat Pumps	4.5	Install a geothermal heat pump or other geothermal technology at a new or existing public facility. (Version 3 name: PE4 Action: Geothermal Installation)	9 - 22	CEC
PE4 Action: Solar Energy Installation	4.6	Install solar hot water and/or solar photovoltaic technology on public property	9 - 20	
PE4 Action: Power Purchase Agreement for Renewables	4.7	Serve as a host site for a renewable energy installation and enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement (PPA)	9 - 20	
PE4 Action: Wind Energy Installation	4.8	Install a wind system on public property	9 - 20	
PE4 Action: Wood Pellet Installation	4.9	Install a wood pellet heating system on public property	6 - 17	
PE4 Action: County-hosted Trainings	NA	NA (new action)	3 - 15	CEC, New as of Q4 2021
PE5: Use climate-smart materials management.				
PE5 Action: Organics Management Plan	NA	NA (Released as part of version 3)	2 - 16	CSC Grants
PE5 Action: Government Solid Waste Audit	3.23	Conduct a local government waste audit and track diversion rate over time	2	
PE5 Action: Recycling Bins in Government Buildings	3.20	Provide recycling bins next to all trash receptacles in local government buildings	3	
PE5 Action: Organic Waste Program for Government Buildings	3.21	Provide organic waste collection and composting in local government buildings	1 - 3	
PE5 Action: WasteWise Program	5.3	Participate in the EPA WasteWise program	1 - 2	
PE5 Action: Construction & Demolition Waste Policy	5.5	Adopt a construction and demolition waste reduction program or policy	2 - 6	CSC Grants
PE5 Action: Reuse Programs	5.6	Set up and manage a resource recovery center to encourage reuse of gently used or new materials that have been discarded. (Version 3 name: PE5 Action: Resource Recovery Center)	1 - 7	Revised Q4 2021
PE5 Action: Recycling Program for Public Places & Events	5.9	Provide recycling bins in public places and events	2 - 6	Revised Q4 2021
PE5 Action: Waste Reduction Education Campaign	5.13	Create an educational campaign to encourage recycling, composting and waste reduction	2	
PE5 Action: Community Repair	NA	NA (Released as part of version 3 in 2020)	4	Revised Q4 2021
PE5 Action: Compost Bins for Residents	5.10	Provide compost bins to residents (for sale or free)	2	
PE5 Action: Residential Organic Waste Program	5.11	Create an organics or yard waste collection program	2 - 22	
PE6: Implement climate-smart land use.				
PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements	6.1	Develop and adopt a comprehensive plan with sustainability elements	3 - 21	Priority, CSC Grants
PE6 Action: Smart Growth Policies	6.2	Incorporate smart growth principles into land-use policies and regulations	1 - 10	Revised Q4 2021
PE6 Action: Unified Solar Permit	6.3	Adopt a renewable energy ordinance	5	CEC
PE6 Action: NYStretch Energy Code	NA	NA (Released as part of version 3)	10	CEC
PE6 Action: Green Building Ordinance	6.4	Establish green building codes	1 - 6	Revised Q4 2021
<i>PE6 Action: Resource-efficient Site Design</i>	6.5	<i>Create resource-efficient site design guidelines (non-reviewable)</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Under Review</i>
<i>PE6 Action: Incentives for Renewable Energy & Efficiency Projects</i>	6.6	<i>Incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency projects</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Under Review</i>
PE6 Action: Policies for Local Food Systems	6.7	Adopt land-use policies that support or incentivize farmers' markets, community gardens and urban and rural agriculture	1 - 4	Revised Q4 2021
PE6 Action: GreenLITES	3.27	Utilize a green or sustainability rating system for infrastructure improvement projects	6 - 15	
PE6 Action: Green Parking Lot Policies	6.8	Adopt green parking lot standards	1 - 4	Revised Q4 2021
PE6 Action: Complete Streets Policy	6.9	Adopt a complete streets policy	4	Priority, CSC Grants

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PE6 Action: Planning for Biking & Walking	6.10	Implement strategies that support bicycling and walking. (In Q4 2020, this action was split into two actions - one for planning, one for infrastructure.)	3	CSC Grants, Revised Q4 2021
PE6 Action: Infrastructure for Biking & Walking	6.10	Implement strategies that support bicycling and walking. (In Q4 2020, this action was split into two actions - one for planning, one for infrastructure.)	2 - 12	Revised Q4 2021
PE6 Action: Alternative-fuel Infrastructure	6.11	Install electric-vehicle infrastructure	4 - 18	Priority, CEC
PE6 Action: Access to Public Transit	6.12	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transport modes	1 - 9	Revised Q4 2021
PE6 Action: Safe Routes to School	6.13	Implement a Safe Routes to School program	3	Revised Q4 2021
PE6 Action: Traffic Calming	6.14	Implement traffic calming measures	3 - 7	Revised Q4 2021
NA	6.15	Adopt and enforce an anti-idling ordinance	1 - 3	Retired in Q4 2021 (removed from program)
PE6 Action: Natural Resources Inventory	6.17	Develop a natural resource inventory	8 - 10	Priority, CSC Grants
PE6 Action: Local Forestry Program	6.18	Develop a local forestry or tree planting project or program	1 - 10	Revised Q4 2021
PE6 Action: Zoning for Protection of Natural Areas	6.19	Preserve natural areas through zoning or other regulations	2 - 6	Revised Q4 2021
PE7: Enhance community resilience to climate change.				
PE7 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment	7.1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment	4 - 16	Priority, CSC Grants
PE7 Action: Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience	7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability. (Version 3 name: PE7 Action: Climate Smart Resiliency Planning)	6	Priority, CSC Grants
PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Plan	7.2 & 7.4	7.2 Develop a climate resilience vision and goals (Version 3 name: PE7 Action: Climate Resilience Vision) was combined with 7.4 Develop climate adaptation strategies (Version 3 name: PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Strategies) in Q4 2020.	3 - 15	Priority, CSC Grants, Revised Q4 2021
PE7 Action: Climate-resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan	7.6	Update the multi-hazard mitigation plan to address changing conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. (Version 3 name: PE7 Action: Hazard Mitigation Plan)	4	Revised Q4 2021
PE7 Action: Heat Emergency Plan	7.7	Develop and implement a heat emergency plan	6	CSC Grants
PE7 Action: Shade Structures Policy	7.8	Require shade structures and features in public spaces	4	
PE7 Action: Cooling Centers	7.9	Open new or expand existing cooling centers	1 - 9	Revised Q4 2021
PE7 Action: Conserve Natural Areas	7.13	Conserve natural areas for species migration and ecosystem resilience. (Version 3 name: PE7 Action: Conservation of Natural Habitats)	1 - 21	
PE7 Action: Watershed-based Flood Mitigation Plan	7.10	Create or update a watershed assessment to identify flooding and water quality priorities. (Version 3 name: PE7 Action: Watershed Assessment) [In Q4 2020, this action split into two actions - one for flooding, one for water quality.]	2 - 5	
PE7 Action: Design Flood Elevation & Flood Maps	7.20	Require consideration of sea-level rise in planning coastal development	2 - 14	
PE7 Action: Freeboard Policies	7.19	Extend areas in which the two-foot freeboard requirement applies	4 - 19	
PE7 Action: Green Infrastructure	7.16	Use green infrastructure to manage stormwater in developed areas	1 - 14	
PE7 Action: Culverts & Dams	7.21	Right-size bridges and culverts, and remove unnecessary and hazardous dams	2 - 24	
PE7 Action: Riparian Buffers	7.12	Conserve, revegetate and reconnect floodplains and buffers in riparian areas (Version 3 name: PE7 Action: Restoration of Floodplain)	2 - 14	
PE7 Action: Strategic Relocation	7.14	Facilitate a strategic relocation of uses that are not water dependent from flood prone areas	4 - 11	
PE7 Action: Nature-based Shorelines	7.18	Use natural, nature-based or ecologically enhanced shoreline protection	2 - 12	

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PE7 Action: National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System	7.15	Promote community flood prevention strategies through the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System	3 - 9	
PE7 Action: Watershed Plan for Water Quality	7.1	Create or update a watershed assessment to identify flooding and water quality priorities. (Version 3 name: PE7 Action: Watershed Assessment) [In Q4 2020, this action split into two actions - one for flooding, one for water quality.]	2 - 6	
PE7 Action: Source Water Protection	7.25	Implement a source water protection program	6 - 10	
PE7 Action: Water Conservation & Reuse	7.23	Implement a water conservation and reuse program	2 - 6	
PE7 Action: Water-smart Landscaping	7.24	Encourage xeriscaping	1 - 6	Revised Q4 2021
PE7 Action: Early Warning Systems and Evacuation Plans	7.22	Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans		Under Review
PE8: Support a green innovation economy.				
PE8 Action: Green Jobs Training	8.1	Create a green jobs training program	3	
PE8 Action: Green Vendor Fairs	8.2	Hold green vendor fairs	2	
PE8 Action: Green Economic Development Plans	8.3	Include green industries in economic development plans	4	
PE8 Action: Farmers' Markets	8.6	Create and promote local farmers' markets	3	
PE8 Action: Buy Local/Buy Green Campaign	8.7	Create a "buy local/buy green" campaign	2	
PE8 Action: Brownfield Clean-up & Redevelopment	8.8	Redevelop a brownfield site	1 - 18	
PE8 Action: Incentives for Green Businesses	8.9	Establish incentives for green industry or businesses to locate in community	4	
PE8 Action: Benchmarking - Large Private Buildings	8.11	Adopt energy benchmarking requirements for privately owned buildings. (Version 3 name: PE8 Action: Energy Benchmarking for Privately Owned Buildings)	12	CEC
PE8 Action: PACE Financing	8.12	Establish a residential energy efficiency financing program. (Version 3 name: PE8 Action: Financing Program for Building Energy Efficiency)	7 - 15	CEC
PE8 Action: Community Choice Aggregation	NA	NA (Released as part of version 3)	12 - 33	CEC, Revised Q4 2021
PE8 Action: Rooftop Solarize Campaign	NA	(Version 3 name: PE8 Action: Solarize, Clean Heating & Cooling, or Solar for All Campaign)	3	
PE8 Action: Community Campaigns	NA	NA (Released as part of version 3)	3 - 12	CEC
PE9: Inform and inspire the public.				
PE9 Action: Climate Change Education & Engagement	9.1	Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation	4 - 8	Priority
PE9 Action: Energy Reduction Campaign	9.2	Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge	5	
PE9 Action: Climate-related Public Events	9.3	Host climate-related educational seminars, workshops, conferences, or fairs	3	
PE9 Action: Local Climate Action Website	9.4	Maintain a website on local climate protection efforts	3	
PE9 Action: Social Media	9.5	Use social media to inform the community about the progress of local government's efforts	3	
PE10: Engage in an evolving process of climate action.				
PE10 Action: GHG Tracking System	3.31	Implement an energy or GHG management system	5	
PE10 Action: Annual Progress Report	10.1	Report on progress annually	4	
PE10 Action: Updates to Strategies & Plans	10.2	Update strategies and plan(s)	4	
Innovation				
Innovation: New Innovative Actions	11.1	Implement a new innovative action	3 - 18	
Innovation: Innovative Approaches to Existing CSC Actions	11.2	Implement an action using an innovative approach	5 - 10	
Performance				
Performance: Reduce GHGs from Government Facilities	12.1	Reduce GHG emissions from government owned facilities	15 - 45	
Performance: Reduce GHGs from Government Vehicles	12.2	Reduce GHG emissions from government owned vehicles	15 - 45	
Performance: Reduce Solid Waste from Government Operations	12.4	Reduce waste volume from local government operations	3 - 10	